

Police chief admits officers cut corners

Detectives have turned to "noble cause corruption" to overcome the faults of the criminal justice system and get convictions, according to Sir John Woodcock, the chief inspector of constabulary. The admission is broadcast tomorrow night in a BBC2 programme, *Who Killed Dixon?*, which traces the changing image of the police and their relationship with the public.

Sir John says: "Practices have developed nationwide out of expediency. With the desire in the conflicting needs to serve the public they have not been as pure as they should have been." He goes on: "What is wrong is a collective approach, of corner cutting, of propping up the criminal justice system, of feeling justified in telling white lies."

Police Federation's new leader, page 5

Suicide 'every two hours'

There is a suicide in Britain every two hours, according to a report published yesterday to mark the start of Samaritan week. Attempted suicide is much more common: there is one every two minutes. Four out of five of those who kill themselves are men. The highest numbers are found among professionals, and the second highest among unskilled workers. Being unemployed and living alone are also strongly linked to suicide. Among the riskiest professions are farming, medicine and dentistry.

Legal aid appeal

The Law Society is appealing against a High Court ruling that the Lord Chancellor's plans for changing the way solicitors are paid for legal aid work in magistrates courts are lawful. It was announced yesterday. The society, which represents nearly 60,000 solicitors in England and Wales, last month sought judicial review of the plan, under which hourly rates would be replaced by standard fees. It argued that this would undermine the public's fundamental right of access to the courts.

MoD challenges award

The defence ministry is to appeal against an award of £160,000 damages to the widow of an airman who choked to death after a drinking session. Judge Phelan said in his May 12 judgment that Terence Barrett, from Yeovil, Somerset, would be alive today had he been given proper care. The ministry said that it believed the judge erred in law.

Colleagues mourn Adley

MPs were among hundreds of mourners at the funeral of Robert Adley, Tory MP for Christchurch. The Welsh secretary David Hunt, who was representing John Major, and Sir Edward Heath heard tributes paid to Mr Adley at Christchurch Priory. Tim Rathbone, MP for Lewes, said that his principles had always been admired.

Essex rape charge

A man has been charged with raping a 13-year-old girl in a field at Vange, Basildon, Essex, on Wednesday. Police will ask for Ricky Antioch, 28, to be remanded in custody when he appears before Essex magistrates. He was arrested after a policewoman saw a man fitting the description of the alleged rapist walking in Basildon.

Meeting makes history

The Queen and the president of the Irish Republic, Mary Robinson, will have an unprecedented official meeting in London next week. It will be the first meeting between a British sovereign and an Irish president since Ireland achieved independence. Mrs Robinson will also receive a degree from Oxford University during her visit.

Sextuplets are named

The sextuplets delivered to Jean and Jan Vincent were named yesterday but still awaited physical contact with their parents. They are called — in order of birth — Rebecca, Gregory, Katie, Stephanie, Jessica and Valerie. The babies remained in intensive care at St James' Hospital in Leeds, where doctors gave an 80 per cent chance of survival.



Motorway crash: officials examining an aircraft that crashed on the M2 near Rochester, Kent, yesterday, closing it for more than two hours. The pilot, Paul Wisely, 46, was seriously injured. Four women in a German tour coach were hit by flying debris. The plane appears to have stalled soon after take-off from Rochester airfield

The welfare debate: vulnerable sectors come under the microscope

'Let the healthy pay for NHS'

By PAUL BARKER

IN HIS history of Britain covering 1945-51, which this week won the £25,000 NCR book prize, Peter Hennessy wrote: "The fifth of July, 1948, was one of the great days in British history. It wasn't like VE day. There were no bonfires or street parties... Yet it was a day that transformed like no other before or since the lives and life chances of the British people... The NHS was and remains one of the finest institutions ever built by anybody anywhere."

Every opinion poll since says amen to that. Like the right to vote, the NHS became an attribute of citizenship and almost as much cherished.

But Michael Portillo's musings on prescription charges remind us that the past half-century has seen a constant struggle to make the NHS work and to find the money for it. The grim saga of Beverly Allitt, the murderous nurse, shows how ill-run the NHS can still be, after everyone's efforts.

'One of the finest institutions ever built' is at the centre of Treasury attempts to balance the books. Perhaps the problem is that the NHS doesn't look the part

Prescription charges have become a peculiar kind of supplementary impost, like road tax or the TV licence. Forty per cent of the population is liable to pay them; but it is the fittest 40 per cent, so five out of six prescriptions are dispensed free. In 1951, when Gaiskell and Attlee enacted the first NHS charges, there were under 700,000 pensioners. Now there are ten million, all of them exempt.

Today's pensioners survived the hazards of childhood long before 1948. And thanks to NHS drugs, they are now seldom carried off by, for example, pneumonia (once known as "the old man's friend"). But it seems a bit rough to turn round and lay on them new costs for which they have never planned. To extend prescription

charges to pensioners overnight is really a form of retrospective legislation. Phasing-in is a different matter. But that won't help balance Mr Portillo's books.

On grounds of general fairness, the best way to raise more money is surely to extend the charge on the 40 per cent of us who are healthy and working, through taxation of a less peculiar and erratic kind. The NHS is, as most people realise, a sort of redistribution system over the life cycle. Its main beneficiaries are the young and the old. No one escapes the first stage and fewer and fewer escape the second.

Every device should, naturally, be used to keep NHS drug costs down. No more Christmas puddings on prescription, and more drugs should

gradually be made available for self-prescription through chemists' shops, such as Nurofen. But what is most worrying about the NHS is not its medical performance, which is pretty good, or even its financial performance, which every study has shown to be the most tightly controlled in the western world. The real worry is what the NHS feels like to be in.

Guy's Hospital has been mocked for ordering £250,000 of plants to brighten up its new wing. But most NHS hospitals are like a slum. They are shabby, grumpy places. Looking for lifts, which are probably not working, you pick your way through plastic bags of rubbish. Such hospitals do not feel like places that make you well. Fifty years of a consumer revolution have changed what people expect. For one, you would be happier to pay more, through taxes, for a service that was more visibly appealing. It is not enough for the NHS merely to be "one of the finest institutions ever built". It should look the part.

Ministers 'fail to understand benefits'

By JEREMY LAURANCE
SOCIAL SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Portillo's insistence that public expenditure on the unemployed, the elderly and the sick is in danger of running out of control is based on a misunderstanding of how the welfare state works, according to a report to be published next week.

The report, the result of four years' research by the London School of Economics, shows that the welfare state's main effect is not to redistribute funds from rich to poor but to act almost as a savings bank, smoothing out resources over the same individual's lifetime.

People pay over their lifetimes, on average, for between two-thirds and three-quarters of the cost of the help they receive from social security, education and health, the final report of the welfare research programme says. They draw on the welfare savings bank to fund their health care and schooling in the early years, contribute to it during their working lives and draw on it again in retirement.

"The key finding is that people take from the welfare state at certain stages in their lives and give back to it at others," said Professor Julian Le Grand, co-director of the research programme. "Two-thirds of it works as a savings bank in which everyone has a stake. You could characterise the government's plans to cut back on welfare spending as unpicking the savings bank and running off with the savings."

Women would be the chief losers from cuts to welfare spending, the report, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, shows. In a lifetime, women gain on average £55,000 to £65,000 more from the welfare state than men. Because men have higher earnings, women gain most from the welfare spending that is transferred to the poor.

Professor Le Grand, an adviser on welfare to both Tory and Labour ministers, said there were also political reasons for the leap in welfare spending in the 1990s. "The government massively overspent in the run-up to the election, boosting welfare spending by 15 per cent in real terms between 1990-1 and 1992-3. It really is quite cynical of them to adopt a high moral tone about the perils of overspending now."

Manifesto commitments will suffer in spending cutbacks

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

IT IS difficult to find any significant savings on public spending which will not involve the government breaking manifesto commitments or being extremely unpopular politically. That is the view of Andrew Dilnot, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, contemplating the government's stated intention to penetrate every area of public spending to find cuts.

The government's announced control totals for public spending are already

tight. Excluding the cost of debt interest on the government's huge accumulated borrowings and social security payments to the unemployed, which soar in recession and fall when the economy starts growing again and is therefore counted by the government as "cyclical", spending this year is only 2.3 per cent higher than the estimated total for 1992-3.

For next year, the rise in public spending planned for by the government is only 0.7 per cent and, in 1995-6, the rise in real terms is only 1 per cent over the year before. Mr Dilnot said: "It will be a real achievement to achieve real increases in spending of only these levels."

The four most expensive areas of government spending are social security, defence, health and education. Defence is already being heavily squeezed, as it is in all industrialised countries in reaction to the lessening of east-west tension.

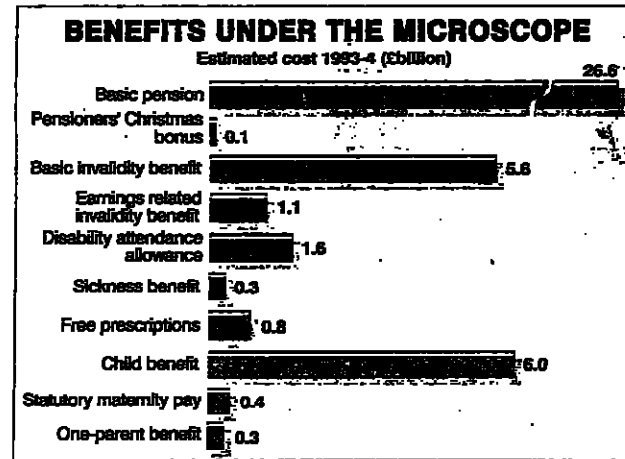
Cutbacks in education, with the education secretary already embroiled in full-scale warfare with the teaching profession over school testing, would be politically extremely sensitive.

Any attempts to eke out spending cuts in health are also unpopular, although the government's suggestion that it might extend prescription charges to exempt groups shows that even this area is being considered. The govern-

ment's total drugs bill is around £3 billion, but only around £275 million of that is recouped from prescription charging. However, economists at the Kings Fund Institute note that, even if the government charged for every prescription issued, which would raise something like £800 million, this would still not cover its drugs bill by a long way.

The most obvious target for government spending cuts is the social security budget. The suggestion that the government could limit payments of unemployment benefit to only six months from 12 months currently would scarcely produce any saving because the unemployed would switch to income support once they were no longer eligible for unemployment benefit.

More lucrative for the government would be changes to



the provision of universal child care benefit which is index-linked. This is one of the sacred cows of the Conservative manifesto and current costs the government £6 billion a year. There are various ways of cutting this bill, from limiting the eligibility of children according to the wealth of their parents to limiting the age at which children are eligible. The government could also announce an end to index-linking. There are so many possible routes it is difficult to detail possible savings.

Another potential target is invalidity benefits, which cost the government more than £6 billion a year. Again, eligibility rules could be tightened up, particularly as there is evidence of an increasing number of claimants over 50 who have been made redundant.

The biggest pie of all is the state pension, which currently costs the government nearly £27 billion a year. Various plans of action are being considered, notably raising the retirement age of women and providing incentives for people to opt out of the state

pension and take out private pensions.

The first option has damaging long-term implications for the labour market, because more women would be looking for work in a shrinking market for jobs. According to OECD figures, British employment fell by 6 per cent since 1960, despite cumulative economic growth of 83 per cent. The second option, which might for example involve lower National Insurance contributions for those opting out of the state system, would cost a great deal in the short term to get a benefit probably 30 years from now.

Mr Dilnot believes that the government may end up announcing some small, specific spending cuts in the November unified budget and unspecified cuts in the control totals for coming years. "This is death by a thousand cuts," he said. "In the short-run, there is very little the government can do except grow a lot, frighten spending ministers into not demanding increases in their departmental budgets and putting down some markers for the future."



Dilnot: "Little the government can do"

High point for low achievers

By NICHOLAS WAIT

AS HE savoured his brief triumph in conquering inflation yesterday, Norman Lamont could have been forgiven for wishing he was Chancellor in February 1964, when inflation was last at such a low level.

It was a month when the Beatles were mobbed in New York, Fanny Hill was condemned by magistrates as obscene, and Britain and France agreed to build the Channel tunnel. The word "recession" had scarcely tripped off a politician's tongue in 20 years.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter, Tory Chief Secretary to the Treasury in February 1964, said yesterday that he had a much easier job than his successors. "Back then, the economy was working rather well because we had had a number of stable

years behind us," Lord Boyd-Carpenter, whose daughter, Sarah Hogg, is having to grapple with today's economic woes as head of John Major's policy unit, added: "It is interesting that, with such different outlooks, one indicator should be the same. In 1964, we had much lower unemployment, which was not a great cause for excitement. As chief secretary, it was my job to keep public spending under control — Michael Portillo's a poor chap today."

Lord Hailsham of Saint Marylebone, one of Lord Boyd-Carpenter's colleagues in the Home administration, thought that they benefited from an upward blip. "The boom years of the 1960s were in front of us and the recession was behind us," he said. "But I don't think there was such a

thing as never having had it so good. Anyway, Harold [Macmillan] only said that in reply to a heckler."

As he enjoys his moment of anti-inflationary glory, Mr Lamont might care to remember what happened to the Tory government the last time inflation was at such a low level. Eight months later, in October 1964, it was turfed out of office.

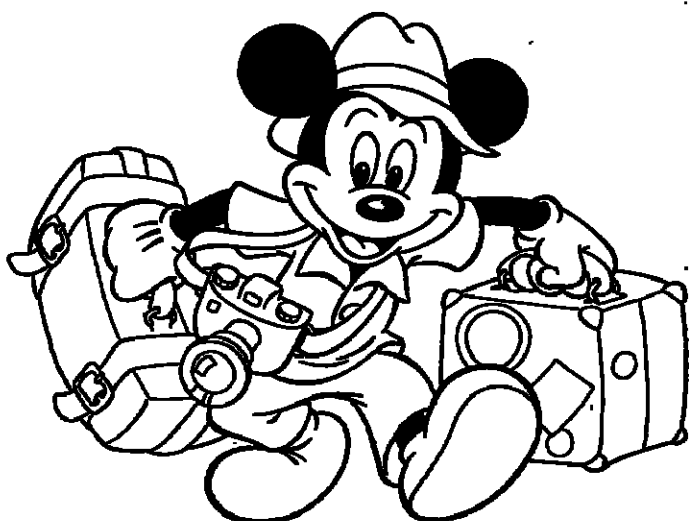
Inflation falls, page 1

CORRECTION

Mr Terry Venables is represented in his high court action by Mr Michael Mann QC, and not, as incorrectly reported (May 19), by Mr Jonathan Crystal.

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Judge condemns 'intellectual joyriders'

Hackers jailed for causing mayhem in computer network

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

TWO university graduates who became obsessed with hacking into computers worldwide made history yesterday by becoming the first offenders to be jailed under new laws.

Neil Woods, 24, and Karl Strickland, 22, were each jailed for six months after Southwark Crown Court in south London was told how they penetrated computer systems in 15 countries. They caused mayhem and ran up huge telephone bills at companies and public organisations. Judge Michael Harris told them: "If your passion had been cars rather than computers we would have

called your conduct delinquent, and I do not shrink from the analogy of describing what you were doing as intellectual joyriding."

The pair, who never met until their arrest in June 1991 and who orchestrated their activities using a computer and modem linked to telephone lines from their bedrooms, obtained systems passwords and user identification codes via international bulletin boards, communications networks where computer users chat and swap information worldwide.

They introduced programmes into some systems which allowed them to re-

enter them at will. James Richardson, for the prosecution, said during the two years in which Woods, of Oldham, and Strickland, from Liverpool, were operating they ran up phone bills of £25,000. Repairs to networks were estimated at over £120,000.

The hackers made a BT network called PSS and Janet, the academic network, their principal highways to over 10,000 computers and systems worldwide.

The pair, using the nicknames Pad and Gandalf, would spend up to six hours a day at their computers and boasted about "smashing" data bases. A police raid on the hackers' homes had uncovered recordings of computer conversations. Their motto was: "If it moves, hack it."

John Hoggett, who defended Strickland, said that his client was obsessed with computers but he had never meant to damage systems.

Mukhtar Hussain, for Woods, said his client had been driven by intellectual curiosity "to discover the power of other machines".

Judge Harris added: "There may be people out there who consider hacking harmless, but hacking is not harmless. Computers now form a central role in our lives, containing personal details, financial details, confidential matters of companies and government departments and many businesses.

"Some, providing emergency services, depend on their computers to deliver those services. It is essential that the integrity of those systems should be protected and hacking puts that integrity into jeopardy."

The two admitted charges of obtaining telegraphic services dishonestly, engaging in the unauthorised publication of computer information and damage to a computer.

The judge said the sentences were meant to penalise the pair and also "to deter others who might be similarly tempted". He would be falling in his public duty by not imposing custodial sentences.

The 'groove machine' that spanned world

THE two hackers' offences included a foray into files at the European Commission that contained details of the expense accounts of Jacques Delors, the EC president.

In Sweden the pair, who became known in the computer world as the Eight-Legged Groove Machine, brought down part of the telephone network, forcing a government minister to apologise publicly for what was described as a technical fault.

The hackers also broke into defence ministry networks, financial computers including those of the City firm S.G. Warburg, and academic sys-

tems at institutions such as Hull University.

Staff at the former Central London Polytechnic estimated that sorting out their computer system after an attack by Woods would cost £230,000.

Woods, a computer salesman and a graduate in computer science from Manchester University, also broke into the European Centre for medium-range forecasting at Bracknell, Berkshire. The centre spent over £8,000 investigating the security breaches.

Strickland, a Liverpool University research assistant, also broke into Nasa computers and ITN's Oracle service.



Woods: graduate in computer science



Strickland: broke into Nasa computers

High Court upholds privacy rulings against Granada TV

By Alexandra Ffian, Media Correspondent

THE High Court has upheld a Broadcasting Complaints Commission ruling against Granada Television over two *World in Action* programmes judged to have infringed a family's privacy.

The commission said that the parents of two girls who died in tragic circumstances should have been warned before the transmission of programmes about their daughters' deaths.

In a landmark judgment, which sanctioned the use of broadcasting laws to protect people's privacy for the first time, Mr Justice Popplewell said that the commission was "perfectly entitled" to rule that the broadcast of the pro-

grammes amounted to "unwarranted infringement of privacy". It was for the commission to decide whether there was an infringement and whether it was unwarranted, "on the facts of each individual case".

Granada had asked the High Court to quash the commission's rulings against the two programmes. One, *How Safe Are Our Children?*, included material on the murder of Annette Wade, 9, in February 1989. The second, in October 1990, was *The Allergy Business*, which concerned Helen Sandford, who died in 1987 at the age of 21. In both cases the commission upheld complaints by the girls'

parents that pictures of their daughters had been shown without warning.

Granada said that it was considering an appeal against the High Court's decision, which it said had far-reaching implications for all broadcasters. "This ruling means that there are now no clear guidelines as to what constitutes unwarranted infringement of privacy."

Richard Hewlett, secretary to the commission, said after the High Court hearing: "The court has accepted our view that Parliament has not defined infringement of privacy in a narrow way and that it is for the commission to decide on the basis of each case."



At her peak: Rebecca Stephens posing with Sherpa Aing Pasang on the summit of Everest on Monday. Technicians worked through the night on Thursday to process the photograph, after fears that it had been under-exposed. Miss Stephens returns to Britain today

Go-it-alone Britons kick team sports into touch

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

INCREASING numbers of Britons prefer individual sports to team games to keep fit, a national survey reported yesterday. Participation in football, rugby and cricket was "at a standstill", while climbing, keep-fit classes, dance and particularly swimming were growing fast compared with trends in the last survey in 1985.

Mintel, the market analysts, used research carried out across Britain on 25,000 men and women in all socio-

economic groups to compile its report, which also shows that 38 per cent of adults do not take part in any regular sporting activity and nearly 25 per cent say they have not participated in any sport in the past three years.

Swimming is clearly the nation's top sporting activity — rambling is second — with participation by nearly a quarter of the adult population. The finding does not surprise Duncan Goodhew, the 1980 Olympic 100 metres breaststroke champion, who said yesterday that serious recreational swimming had mushroomed.

He said: "People are now going to a pool and instead of just crashing into each other, they are using lanes, which are roped off for people of different ability." Young and old alike could enjoy the water, as well as disabled people. Swimming gave stamina and flexibility and, "unlike some sports, you virtually never get injured".

Micky Stewart, England's national director of cricket coaching and development, questioned some of the findings. He accepted that cricket had disappeared from many inner-city schools, partly because they had

encouraged individual sports, but he believed that clubs had responded tremendously well. "Many clubs have colts sections with 60 or 80 players. This did not occur so frequently 20 years ago. It is true that many people have taken up individual sports, but team games are also flourishing."

Sports declining in popularity since 1985 were darts, down by 33 per cent, table tennis, squash, and also athletics and jogging, which had enjoyed a huge boom in the early 1980s after the introduction of the London Marathon.

Judge backs transfusion for child

By Kate Alderson

A JUDGE yesterday ordered that the baby daughter of Jehovah's Witnesses, critically ill with leukaemia, can be given a life-saving blood transfusion. The ruling goes against the parents' religious beliefs.

An application was made in private in the High Court in London yesterday by Camden council on behalf of Great Ormond Street hospital, where the ten-month-old baby is being treated.

Justice Booth paved the way for the transfusion to take place when she ruled that the children's hospital could go ahead with the "use of blood products". She will give her reasons for the decision in open court on Monday morning.

A hospital spokesman said the child needed the blood "as a matter of life and death" and that it was important that transfusion took place quickly. Treatment would take place "almost immediately".

It is understood that relatives of the baby, from Dagenham, east London, reluctantly agreed to the transfusion but it was objected to by senior officials of the religious sect who hoped alternative treatment could be found.

Hilton drops a brick and makes peace with prince

By Ian Murray

THE Prince of Wales yesterday made peace with the Hilton group for building its tower block hotel in Park Lane, which allows its guests to overlook the gardens of Buckingham Palace.

The reconciliation has come about, it would seem, because the environmentally conscious prince is impressed by the group's decision to drop a brick into the toilet cistern in every one of the hotel's 452 rooms.

The prince was speaking in the Grosvenor House, just up the road from the Hilton, at the launch of the International Hotels Environment Initiative, organised by his Business Leaders Forum. He recalled the fuss and environmental impact there had been 30 years ago, when it was discovered that corings and goings in the palace gardens could be watched from rooms on the hotel's upper floors.

"I remember the reaction that produced and the flurry of tree planting that went on in the garden, to try to obscure those that tried to move about during the normal course of business from the prying eyes of those at the top of this remarkable new tower block," he said. Now, however, the



Prying eyes: a guest's view of palace grounds

Ladbroke group, owners of the Hilton chain, had become one of 11 hotel chains supporting the new environmental initiative. These groups demonstrated they were prepared to do substantially more than pay lip service to the issue of greening their businesses, he said.

"How much more down to earth can one get than the saving of 1.34 litres per individual flush, achieved through the London Hilton's simple expedient of bunging a brick into each and every cistern of the hotel," he said. The success of reducing a hotel's environ-

mental impact depended on a "step by step, pound by pound, flush by flush" approach.

Apart from the Hilton, the prince had words of praise for the restored Bristol Hotel in Warsaw, owned by Forte. Another of the 11 virtuously green groups, the prince had seen it earlier this week.

He found it "a remarkable example of what can be done with loving care and attention to refurbish those old hotels and enable them to function in a contemporary manner".

Departing from his green text to make a blue joke, the prince wondered whether there might be another well appointed hotel in Bristol, "because there is nothing like having a good pair of Bristols".

Jonathon Porritt, who has advised the prince on environmental awareness in the past, steered matters back to the green business in hand. Hotel guests did not need a clean towel every night of their stay, he said dryly.

Guests should also be encouraged to turn out lights. For hoteliers still in the dark about making a contribution to the environment, the new initiative has produced a practical guide on how to improve their green credentials.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Send in the clowns

Some MPs are not merely capturing the low ground of television — stealing gags out of the mouths of professional clowns — but seem intent on taking over the medium wholesale. A new TV quiz show, *A Kick in the Ballots*, stars politicians and is

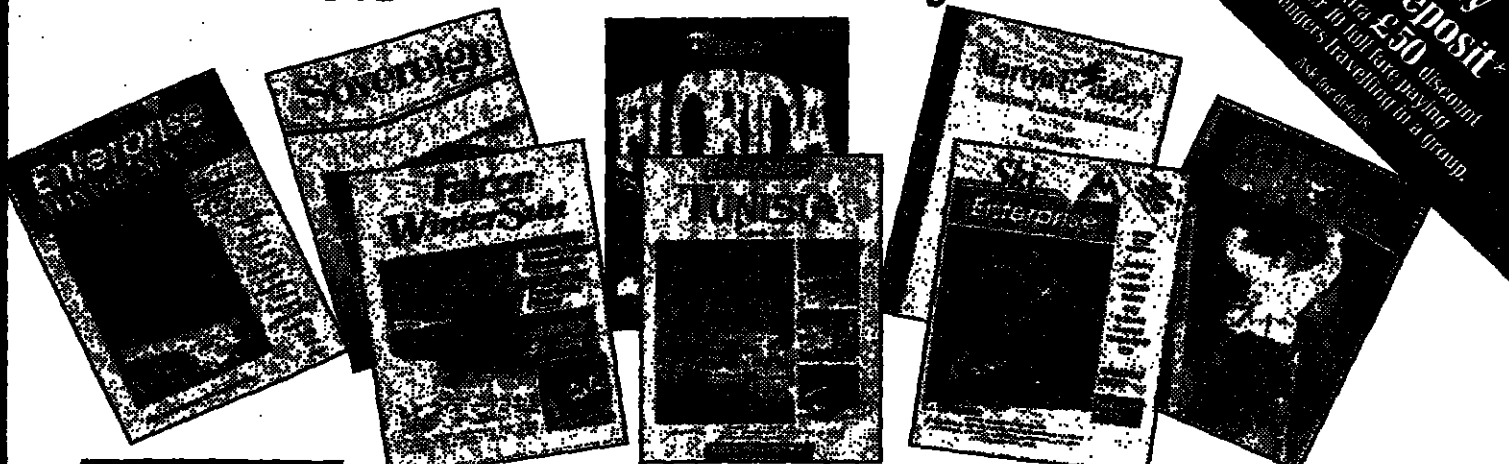


hosted by a politician. The Palace of Varieties has achieved the equivalent of a West End transfer. It means jobs for the boys. It means extra money. More important, it means more exposure for the likes of David Melford, Tony Banks, Jerry Hayes and Charles Kennedy...

Stuart Wavell on MPs who would be media stars — in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

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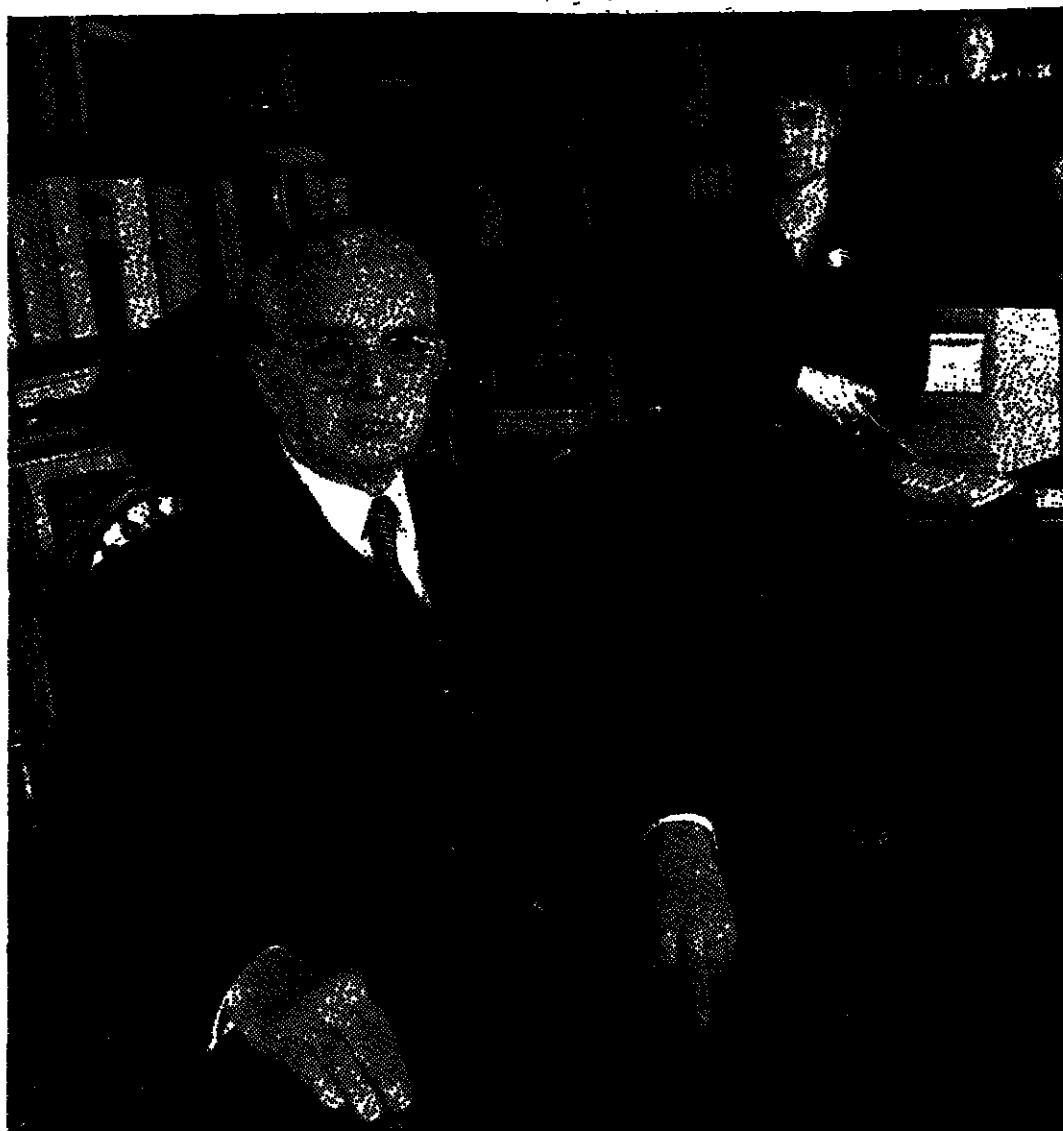
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The same holiday for less.

According to research, this man should be a California surfer.



Richard Bradley, Chairman.

Although it pains us to admit it, our research tells us that when many people in the U.K. think of Apple computer users, they think of free-spirited, light-hearted individuals. The kind of person you'd find more often on a surfboard than a board of directors.

Not exactly the image that leaps to mind when you look at the loyal (not to mention highly successful) Macintosh owner pictured at right.

While it is accurate that Macintosh was originally conceived in the slightly off-centre state of California, it's equally true that today this unconventional invention is the computer of choice for over 10 million lawyers, architects, accountants and other serious business people around the world.

What's so different about a Macintosh?

If there's anything offbeat about Macintosh, it's not the people who use it. It's the concept it's based on.

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That's why you'll notice, whenever you use a Macintosh, that there aren't any complicated commands to memorise. No indecipherable computer codes to slow you down.

Which means, of course, you'll spend less time wondering how to do what you need to, and more time actually doing it.

What's in it for you?

How does increased productivity sound for starters?

As all too many people who have bought computers can tell you, the most expensive part of the proposition isn't the computer itself. It's learning to use it. Figuring out how to make it meet your particular needs. Not to mention answering all of those technical questions.

Fortunately, since the Macintosh is designed to anticipate the way people think, you'll find that you simply won't need as much costly training and ongoing technical support¹.

Furthermore, every program you can run on the Macintosh (and there are literally thousands of them) works in the same logical, consistent manner. From Lotus 1-2-3² to WordPerfect³, once you've learned one program, you've learned the basics of them all.

If it sounds easy, it's probably because it is. Which would explain why more than

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The Macintosh Classic⁴ line offers all the cost-saving benefits of Macintosh for as little as £695. And since that price includes built-in networking and file sharing software (as well as a keyboard, monitor and sound capabilities), you can not only afford to give a Macintosh to all your staff, you can also connect them together so they can work even more efficiently.

The Macintosh PowerBook⁵ line offers a choice of six models. Twice named a Product of the Year by the likes of Time, Business Week and Fortune, PowerBook has set a new standard among notebook computers for simplicity, display quality and intelligent design. No wonder we sold more than one PowerBook per minute last year.

The Macintosh Quadra⁶, considered "the ultimate workstation for most users" by BYTE Magazine⁷, gives you all the horsepower you need to handle even the most challenging projects. Engineering, drafting and 3-D rendering, as well as huge spreadsheets or book-length publications.

What about your old computer?

Good question.

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Audit chief condemns 'one of the poorest performances of any local authority'

Lambeth accused of fraud and incompetence

BY RACHEL KELLY
AND CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

COUNCILLORS and officials from the London borough of Lambeth face possible action in the High Court after one of the most damning indictments of local authority incompetence from the district auditor.

Lambeth council has spent more than £20 million unlawfully on roads, twice the figure estimated by its own officers earlier this year. Paul Clayton, the district auditor who produced a 90-page report cataloguing failures at every level, said officials and elected members might be taken to court to recover the cash.

The report, published by the Audit Commission, is the seventeenth critical report on the Lambeth authority in 14 years. The council has four months to reply.

Mr Clayton lists examples of poor management, waste, weak financial control and unlawful spending which had meant that at least £5 million had been squandered. There was no evidence of theft or fraud in highway mainte-

A savage report on local government incompetence could lead to a widening of the District Auditor's powers

nance, but elsewhere there had been "an unacceptable incidence of fraud and malpractice. Deficiencies have extended throughout the council's directorates and frauds have been perpetrated by council staff, by benefit claimants and other recipients of council services."



Jones: 14 years have seen no improvement

Andrew Foster, head of the Audit Commission, said the situation at Lambeth was exceptional. "We regard this as one of the poorest performances of any local authority that the commission deals with. The report demonstrates a totally unacceptable position in Lambeth."

The report gives recent examples of thefts of cash and materials by a school finance officer, a senior manager, a former head teacher and other unidentified officers. The unlawful letting of council properties, known as sale of keys, was a recurrent feature.

Mr Clayton identified cases where illegal acts had been proved but culprits had been neither disciplined nor sacked. One officer was still employed after being given a suspended sentence, as were three others who fraudulently claimed benefits totalling thousands of pounds.

The bulk of the report concentrates on highway maintenance programmes. Mr Clayton said that the Direct Labour Organisation — responsible for carrying out maintenance projects — had a monopoly of such work "in excess of the proportions permitted by law".

□ contracts awarded to the DLO for particular districts were unlawfully extended to other areas;

□ the council acted anti-competitively and therefore unlawfully in the operation of certain contract letting procedures;

□ work was allocated to the DLO without due authorisation by council members;

□ spending by the DLO exceeded budget limits previously set by council members.

The report says: "Unlawful expenditure on highway maintenance since 1988 amounts to some £20.2 million. If the work had been put out to tender, savings to the council might have been £5 million."

Mr Clayton refused to pin the blame either on councillors or their officers. "Stewardship by both officers and members has been inadequate," he said. He did not name individuals in the report, but said that he would now seek discussions with those concerned. He said that he had a duty to consider High Court action to seek a declaration that spending had been unlawful. It would be up to the court to make an order for recovering money from those responsible.

Mr Clayton also criticised the continuing delay in producing accounts, their poor quality and the adverse effect on the stewardship of funds.

Hugh Jones, leader of Lambeth's Tory group, said: "For years the Labour party in Lambeth has been more interested in playing political games, discussing things such as Nicaragua, the miners' strike and the Gulf war, than making sure the council finances and services are properly administered."

The council said later that it was working closely with Mr Clayton on many of the matters raised. It promised to take "whatever action is necessary" to place the authority on a firm footing.

Enquiry raises prospect of greater regulatory powers

BY RACHEL KELLY, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE head of the Audit Commission suggested yesterday, in the wake of the Lambeth affair, that the government might wish to look at extending the scope of its powers to regulate council finances.

Andrew Foster was speaking as a savage 90-page commission report showed that Labour-controlled Lambeth Council had unlawfully spent more than £20 million on roads.

The report prompted heavy criticism from Tory councillors, who said that 17 reports in 14 years had failed to bring about any improvements.

Hugh Jones, Conservative leader, said administrative incompetence had remained. "There need to be greater powers somewhere to deal with this sort of council," Mr Jones said. "Whether they should lie with the Audit

Commission, I'm not sure. We should be looking at the whole system."

The commission had been too lenient in the past and had given Lambeth the benefit of the doubt. "Each time Lambeth said they would make changes, but then not all the changes happened."

Mr Foster defended the Audit Commission's performance. "If the system is not working as effectively as people would wish, that's for the government to take a line on. We do not have executive powers to go in and change things," he said.

He said the position in Lambeth was unacceptable. "The major point is the concern for local people about their services and the fact that they haven't had good value for money or good services either. This is totally unacceptable and something that causes the commission and me very great concern. We will be monitoring Lambeth."

□ English councils were owed an estimated £2.4 billion in poll tax arrears at the end of March. £800 million more than the non-collection total for which they had made provision, Robin Squire, junior environment minister, disclosed in a Commons written reply yesterday.

Earlier, John Redwood, local government minister, said that there would be no amnesty for non-payers of the community charge.

New police leader faces toughest beat

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A CUMBRIAN policeman who began his career patrolling the tough streets of Whitehaven and Carlisle was yesterday elected chairman of the Police Federation.

Sergeant Dick Coyle, vice-chairman of the federation since 1988, becomes spokesman for more than 120,000 junior ranks at one of the most turbulent times in the history of the police. He forecast yesterday that the federation would take an increasingly tougher stance on government plans.

"We have reached a point where the police are going to be changed out of all recognition," he said. "We will be trying

to get the best deal for officers." The police faced change on a series of fronts with uncertainty and falling morale. There was resentment at the way the Home Office was pressing on with undue haste, and there was suspicion that the police had been softened up by a campaign of criticism in recent years. Now there was the prospect of wider privatisation.

Speaking after the federation's annual conference, at which Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, was jeered and mocked, Mr Coyle said: "I honestly think the man wants things to change but he does not listen. He is a man in a hurry." The federation suspected that many of the proposals were not for the benefit of the police but of the Treasury. The confer-

ence deferred a call to seek trade union rights if the government went ahead with discipline reforms, but Mr Coyle said that seeking the right to strike remained a possibility. "I would hope the federation would not be moving towards trade unionism but if we continue down the path this government is forcing us we are going that way."

Mr Coyle, 54, joined the police after leaving the RAF. He was a beat and traffic officer during his career and was described by one of his superiors as having the potential to make a good policeman if he would only stop asking questions. Now he will be the most visible and probably most quoted police leader in the country.

Chess players warn Fide of legal action

BY IAN MURRAY

THE Professional Chess Association (PCA) is preparing a new system to rate the world's best players and is ready to use EC law against Fide if the governing body of world chess carries out a threat to strip Nigel Short and Garry Kasparov of their official ratings for playing in *The Times* World Chess Championship.

"It is one of the options open to us if Fide tries to penalise professional players who compete in the tournaments we will be running," said Bob Rice, the PCA commissioner. "Fide is having a tantrum because they know we mean to put on high-quality tournaments with the most exciting players in the world and they will not be involved. It is hard for me to take their threat seriously but if there is an attempt to deprive players of a livelihood in this way then we would sue."

"However, we don't want to waste our time and energy on a court case and we believe that when professional players realise they can play in our high-quality tournaments for good money they will be quite happy to play with us. We had been planning to introduce our own rating system anyway and if they persist... we will probably bring it all forward."

Garry Kasparov, the reigning world champion, is unlikely to be affected if Fide removes his rating since he will always be in demand for tournaments. Nigel Short, his British challenger who is

ranked eleventh in the world, might find it more difficult to play if he is defeated by Kasparov, but the match should secure his financial future and will help to establish the PCA and a new rating system.

The threat of losing a Fide rating is real for other professionals, who rely on Fide tournaments for their livelihood. Julian Hodgson, the reigning British champion, said: "I would need a very large amount of money to play for the PCA if I knew Fide would take away my rating for doing so."

The PCA would consider taking Fide to the European Court to defend players such as Hodgson. Fide has recently moved from Lucerne to Athens and is therefore subject to EC law, which outlaws restrictions on trade.

David Pannick QC, an expert in Community law, said: "In this case, the matter would be arguable at law since Fide is an undertaking whose activities might restrict competition within the EC. This could constitute abuse of a dominant position."

The Times World Chess Championship is the first tournament to be played under the auspices of the PCA. Bonds for seats to see the 24 games, being played between September 7 and October 30, at the Savoy Theatre in London can be obtained by ringing the First Call agency on 071-497 9977.



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OBSERVERBY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

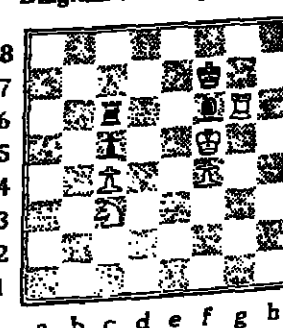
Odds on *The Times* World Chess Championship between Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short are Kasparov 1/5 and Short 11/4. However, Nigel Short's fans should not become downhearted as today's win by Short against Kasparov demonstrates.

White: Nigel Short
Black: Garry Kasparov
Immortal, Paris 1991

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	f4	c6
3	g3	Nf6
4	Bg5	Bc7
5	Bxd7+	Qxd7
6	c4	e6
7	Qe2	Qd6
8	d3	O-O
9	dxe6	Nxe6
10	Nf3	Rae8
11	O-O	e5
12	Nc3	Oxd5
13	Be5	e4
14	Bg5	Nxe4
15	dxe4	Nf6
16	Rae1	Rae1
17	Qd1	Nd4
18	Rae1	Nd3+
19	Bd6	Oxd3
20	Oxd3	Rf6
21	gxd3	Rf6
22	Rd6+	Rd8
23	Rd6	

Diagram of final position



To book your seat for *The Times* World Chess Championship match between Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short ring First Call on 071 497 9977. Lines are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Chess bonds, page 28
Winning Move, page 18
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U-turn on penal law could add 10,000 to prison population



Tummie: critical report adds to prison fears

By FRANCES GIBB
AND RICHARD FORD

THE Home Office is predicting a rise of several thousand in the prison population as a result of the government's retreat last week on the Criminal Justice Act.

Sir Clive Whitmore, permanent under-secretary at the Home Office, yesterday predicted what he called a further fluctuation in prisoner numbers as "we try to introduce amendments to the Criminal Justice Act 1991 along the lines proposed by the home secretary last week".

Although Sir Clive mentioned no figures, officials are privately estimating the rise to be between 5,000 and 10,000. These figures will have to be put to the Treasury when bids for the department are assessed in the next spending round.

Yesterday's warning on prison numbers comes in the wake of the critical report on conditions at Cardiff jail, which was overcrowded at the time Judge Tummie carried out his inspection.

Yesterday, as Judge Tummie blamed bad industrial relations, poor management by governors and the area manager for the disgraceful and degrading conditions at the jail, the prison department could not say whether anybody had been disciplined over the report.

Judge Tummie said: "There is an area manager whose job it is to manage the area. This [the conditions] is not the sort of thing that has gone wrong overnight". He added: "I am worried that unless my

inspection had taken place nothing would have changed". Prison reform groups demanded changes to the management structure above governors as managers had failed to pick up or act upon what had happened in the jail. Tony Blair, shadow home secretary, demanded to know from the prison service how the prison had been allowed to fall into such an appalling state. "Bad prisons means bad law and order," he said.

The predicted upsurge in the prison population will result from changes announced by Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, enabling courts to take into account an offender's record; more than two

offences at one time; and from new measures to tackle offending on bail.

Sir Clive, addressing the first symposium organised by the newly formed Criminal Justice Consultative Council, of which he is a member, said that the prison population stood at 43,600, of which 7,600 prisoners were unconvicted.

The prison population had fluctuated sharply, peaking a year ago at 48,000 but falling by the end of the year to 42,000. Sir Clive said. Numbers rose by 6 per cent in the first quarter of this year even though that was still well below the figure for the same period last year, he added.

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Job offers inside view to energetic reformer

By VALERIE GROVE

WHAT makes Judge Stephen Tummie so cheerful? He has what many would regard as a ghastly job as HM Chief Inspector of Prisons. Yet ever since Douglas Hurd appointed him the first judge in that role in 1987 — when like most judges he had hardly ever seen inside a prison — he has carried out his brief with energy and outspokenness.

The clue lies in his ebullient personality. He likes to tell amusing stories and constantly roars with laughter. The books he wrote while a judge were not learned works of penology but slim volumes called *Great Legal Fiascos* and *Great Legal Fiascos*.

In distinctive bow-ties and half-moon spectacles he has weathered the storms of Brixton, Wandsworth and Strangeways, convinced that recurrent prison crises could be solved by sound common sense. The cherished custom of stopping out, "a pointless, humiliating business", had to go. He also attacked enforced idleness: the corrupting practice of allowing teenage boys to lie idle in their bunks in the vandalised squalor of remand centres. "People are sentimental about prisons," he

says. "They either think they are too nice or too nasty. But the only real question is, is it active enough?"

"Apart from being (a) secure and (b) humane, a prison is supposed to help people lead law-abiding and useful lives afterwards. That's the key to it all really."

Judges, he believes, should be aware of the kind of life to which they consign the convicted. He is personally in favour of trying other forms of punishment: in any prison, three-quarters of the inmates plainly ought not to be there at all. Instead, the system ensures that they are more corrupt, angry and useless when they come out.

"I am delighted to hear that Cardiff is improving," he says. "but how did it ever get into that state? Ingrained dirt does not appear overnight: it is a reflection on management."

In encouragement of prison activity, Judge Tummie was this week at Wandsworth chiding the Koestler award for prisoners' paintings, some of which hang on his wall in the Home Office. He is about to create another award, for in-prison newspapers. His briefcase was made by a homosexual rapist in Broadmoor. He believes access to books is vital for inmates.

His wife, Winifred, who advises Virginia Bottomley on maladjusted children, has also run the Royal National Institute for the Deaf. Two of the Tummies' three daughters were born deaf, and both are accomplished artists. He is a convivial clubman (Garrick) who enjoys the chauffeur-driven life, since he cannot drive: he "went into a sulk" after failing his test twice. He has cheerfully agreed to go on inspecting prisons for an extra term, until 1995.

Thatcher plots last stand on treaty referendum

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DESPITE the ease with which the Maastricht bill received its third reading in the Commons this week, Baroness Thatcher still plans a last-ditch attempt to secure a referendum on the treaty in the House of Lords next month.

As the bill moves to the upper House, the anti-Maastricht campaigners claim to have identified 191 peers who are prepared to follow the former prime minister in demanding a referendum.

The number of "friendly" peers who are strongly anti-EC is said to be relatively small. Perhaps surprisingly in an unelected chamber, there is a far larger contingent who believe in the democratic principle of a referendum on a subject of profound constitutional significance.

Euro-sceptics in the Lords have drafted 500 amendments ready to be tabled next month. However, the government's business managers remain confident that they can see off all attempts to damage the bill in the upper chamber and ensure a smooth passage

■ Anti-Maastricht campaigners refuse to accept defeat and have pledged that battle will resume in the Lords next month

to enable it to receive the royal assent in July.

Two days, June 7 and 8, have been put aside for the second reading debate on the bill, which will be left in the hands of Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Foreign Office minister, and the Lords' Treasury spokesman, the Earl of Calthorpe. Lord Wakeham, as leader



Thatcher: waiting for referendum amendment

of the Lords, will intervene again only if there is serious trouble. Lord Parkinson is expected to make his maiden speech and defy the conventions by coming out forcibly against the treaty. Lady Thatcher will speak in the debate, but she will then confine herself to the big keynote occasions, such as the referendum amendment.

Leaders of the campaign against the treaty are Lord Tebbit and Lord Pearson of Rannoch on the Tory side and Lord Stoddart of Swindon and Lord Bruce of Donington for Labour. They plan to fight on two key fronts: the referendum amendment and the constitutional implications of ratification. But, as one peer said: "An all-nighter or two should cool their ardour."

When Lady Chalker looks across the dispatch box, she will see the friendly faces of two former EC commissioners, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead

and Lord Richard, the leaders, respectively, of the Liberal Democrat and Labour peers. Most of the trouble will come from behind her.

Although the anti-Maastricht campaigners are mustering some backwoods peers, such as the Earl of Bradford and Lord Burnham, there are other rarely seen peers who strongly support the treaty. Lord Glendon, who lives in the Channel Islands, said yesterday that he hoped to end his long absence from the Lords, due to ill-health, to back the government.

The ambition of the government's business managers is to prevent any change to the bill which would lead to "ping-ponging" between the two Houses and delay royal assent. To this end, they have granted peers the same right as MPs to debate a social chapter motion before ratification.

Kate Hoey was sacked as a Labour spokesman on the citizen's charter and women's issues by John Smith yesterday for voting against the Maastricht bill. Labour had imposed a three-line whip on its MPs to abstain.

Tory rebels and Labour attack privatisation

MacGregor holds line on rail bids

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT ministers are confident they will see off a fresh revolt next week by Conservative MPs over rail privatisation plans.

John MacGregor, the transport secretary, has warned rebels he will not concede to their demand to allow British Rail to bid against private operators for franchises to run lines. In a meeting with Sir Keith Speed and other critics of the plans, Mr MacGregor argued that BR managers would be encouraged to club together in management buy-outs. The government will offer managers up to £100,000 to prepare bids.

He is standing firm against allowing the entire BR organisation to bid. Critics argue that, under the bill as it stands, foreign state-owned railways can compete for franchises to run railways in Britain, but BR cannot.

In his reply yesterday to the highly critical transport committee report, Mr MacGregor made no new concessions. The committee, chaired by the late Robert Adley, attacked virtually every aspect of the government's plans, including the speed of the changes. Mr

MacGregor's reply stated: "But too slow a pace would add to uncertainty and would therefore be damaging; and, in the interest of passengers and freight customers, potential improvements should be realised as quickly as possible."

Fare increases by private operators, above the rate of inflation, are not ruled out. The committee wanted strict limits imposed on price increases. The government's response said competition in itself should limit increases. It added, however: "On the other hand, where passengers are expected to benefit from investment to improve the quality of service, then higher increases in fares may be justified."

Brian Wilson, the shadow transport secretary, dismissed the response as "a complete soneawall" and "insultingly inadequate." "All rational objections are brushed aside on the grounds that the bill's architects know best."

He hoped the refusal to comply with the recommendations would strengthen the resolve of Tory rebels to vote for new safeguards in the bill.

Smith condemns sell-off 'madness'

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith delivered a scathing attack on the prime minister yesterday, accusing him of plunging ahead with wholesale privatisation against the wishes of the people.

Mr Smith told the Welsh Labour party conference in Llandudno that John Major was even more determined to break new grounds of privatisation than his predecessor, Margaret Thatcher. Apart from British Rail and the Royal Mail, ministers were considering plans to privatise the courts service, police criminal records, civil service and teachers' pensions and the Forestry Commission, the Labour leader claimed.

"There is clearly no end to their privatisation madness," he said. "Is the United Kingdom of the future to be a country run like Group 4 Securix? John Major is like the runaway train rushing headlong down the track. The whole country is telling him to stop — shouting loud and clear in Newbury and in that recent county election — but he is not listening."

People did not want to sell any more of the nation's assets, Mr Smith said. "I warn the prime minister: if he refuses to listen to the people, and if he carries down this crazy track, privatisation will be his Waterloo."

What mattered to people was whether they had a job, the state of the health service, the kind of education their children were getting and whether they were being treated fairly by the people elected to represent them, he said.

Diary, page 14



Smith likened Major to a runaway train



Carrying his world: a Swan Hunter worker leaves the yard yesterday

Shipyard cuts 420 jobs

By PAUL WILKINSON

MORE than 400 workers at Swan Hunter shipbuilders are to lose their jobs by next Friday, the yard's receivers, Price Waterhouse, said yesterday. Union leaders and local MPs had been fearing the news since the yard went into receivership last week, but they attacked Price Waterhouse's announcement that the 2,200 workers must wait a week to be told which 420 will be made redundant. Stephen Byers, the Labour MP whose Walsend constituency includes the shipyard, said: "No one will know precisely whether or not they are on the list."

They will spend the next week working with that threat hanging over them."

Tom Brennan, chairman of the union's confederation at the yard, said: "People will simply be told next Friday not to come into work on Monday. It is a devastating blow. The hopes and aspirations of 420 families have been dashed on the rocks of government dogma and ideology."

The cuts will affect 212 production workers, 134 white-collar staff, including 26 managers and supervisors, and 74 short-term workers. The most any worker can expect to receive in redundancy pay is about £6,000, but most are likely to get less than £3,000.

Ulster voters deal blow to Mayhew

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

RESULTS in the local elections in Northern Ireland, where counting ended yesterday, have done little to encourage hopes of political progress in the province.

While the non-sectarian Alliance party performed well, there were also unexpectedly strong showings by Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist party and by Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA.

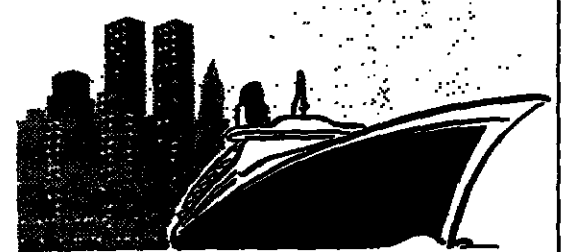
Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, had been looking for a clear endorsement at the ballot box of his plan to restart the inter-party talks process as soon as practicable. In particular, Sir Patrick was believed to be hopeful that Mr Paisley would not be able to halt his party's steady decline through the 1980s, with his condemnation at the hustings of Sir Patrick's latest approach to further talks.

However, the DUP vote held up well, suggesting that many unionists endorse Mr Paisley's determination not to take part in any further discussions until the Irish Republic withdraws its constitutional claim to the province.

Ian Paisley junior, a party spokesman, said the DUP had done fantastically well, and had sent an unequivocal

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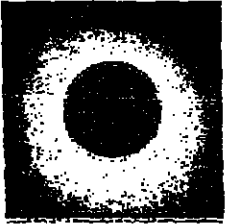
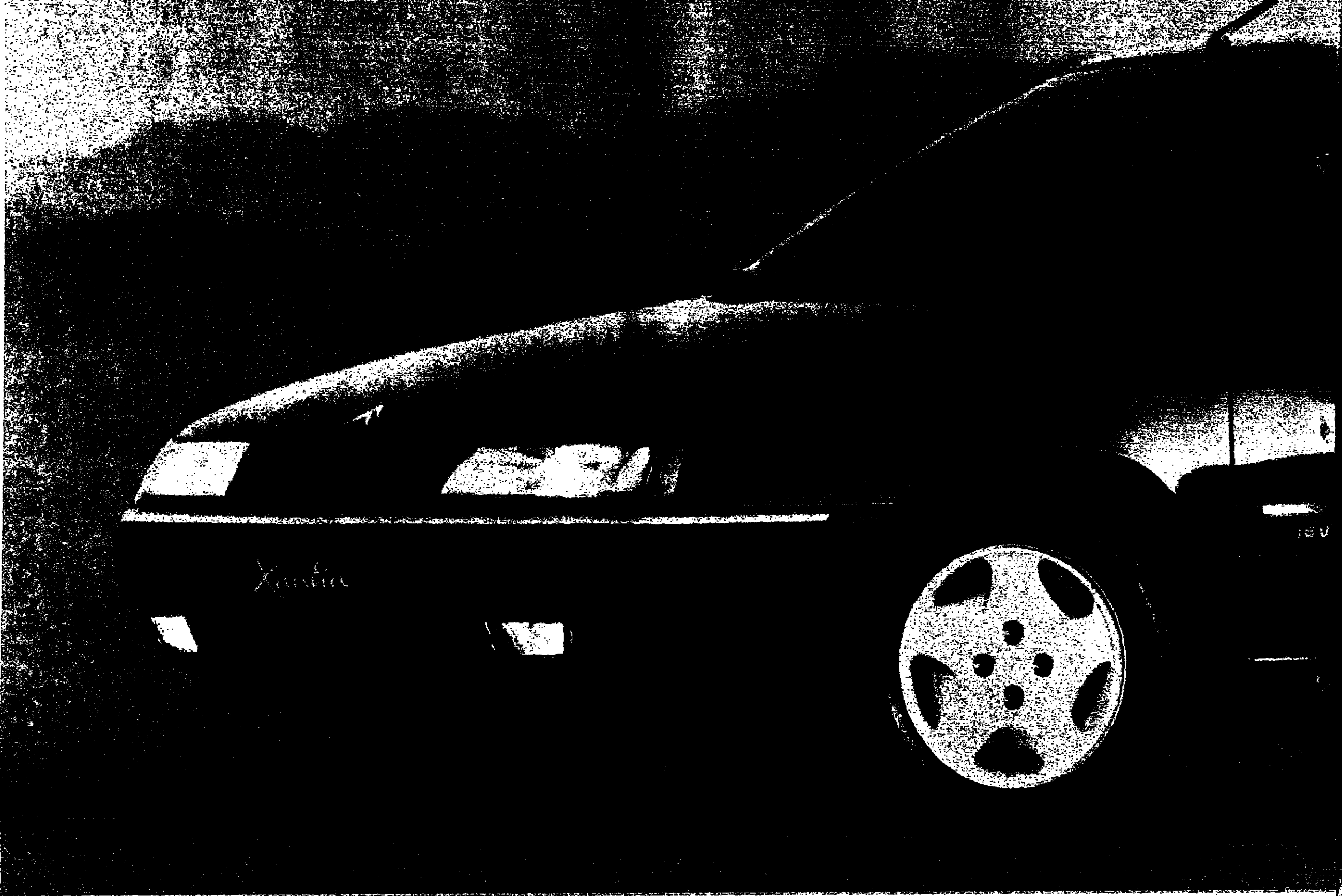
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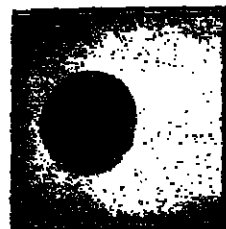
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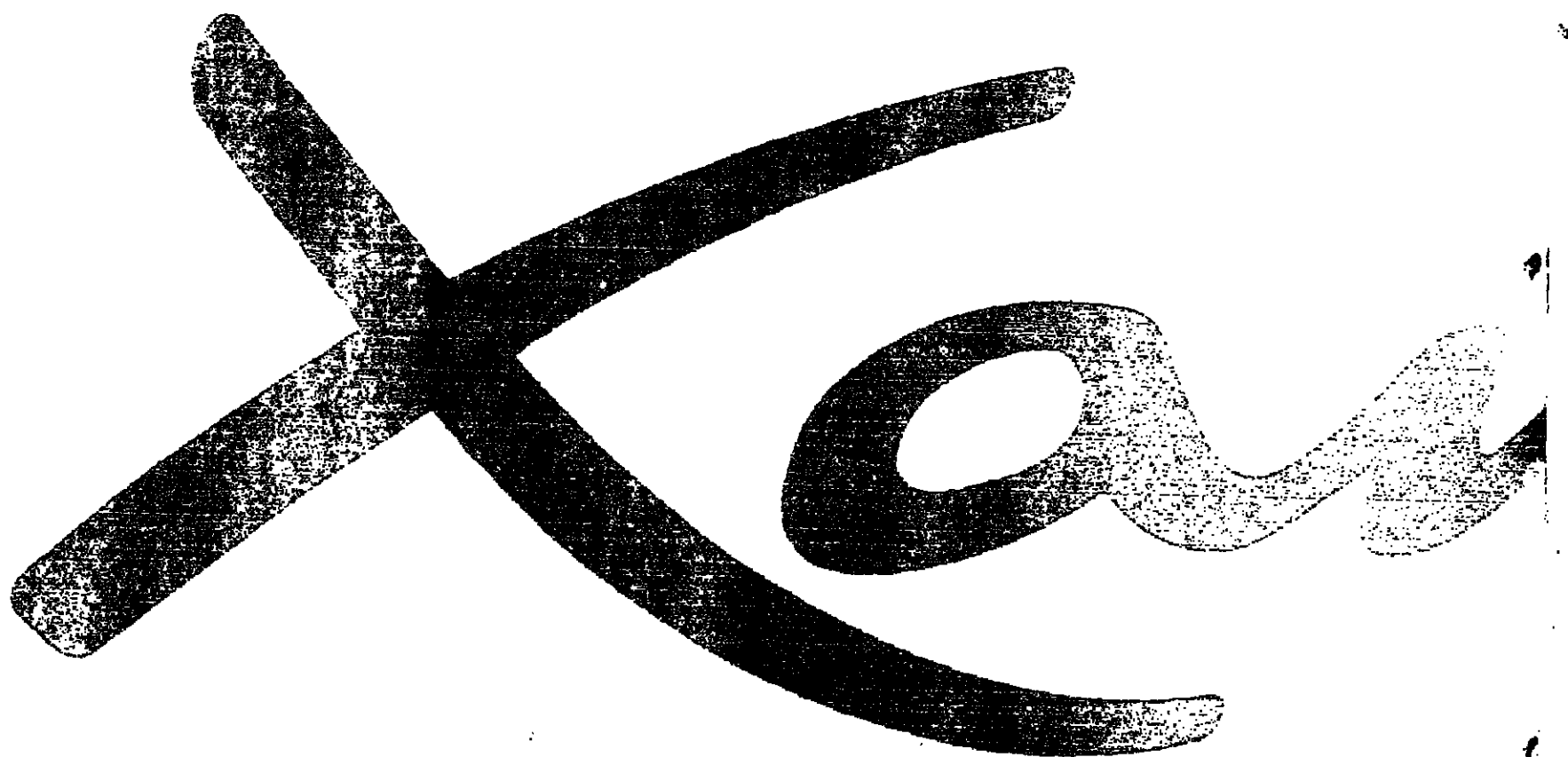
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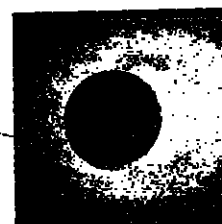
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tia



CITROËN

Transport secretary to unveil green paper on new tax next week

Road toll plan will include trunk routes

By Kevin Eason and Tim Jones

BRITAIN'S 24 million motorists will be charged for using motorways and other main roads under plans to be unveiled next week.

John MacGregor, the transport secretary, is expected on Wednesday to unveil his green paper on road pricing, detailing how he wants to introduce a pay-as-you-drive scheme to help fund road improvements.

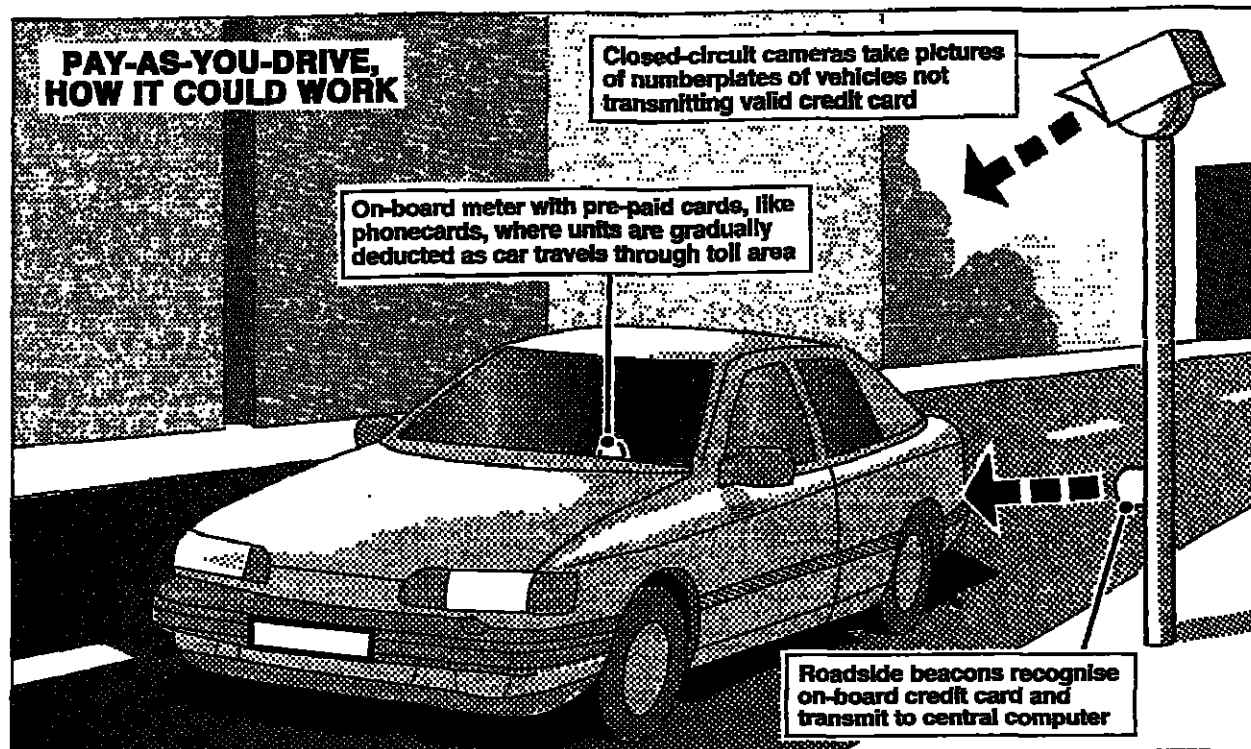
It is now understood that the scheme will be more extensive than at first thought, with the inclusion of some heavily used A-roads as well as motorways.

Mr MacGregor will make it clear that in spite of a record £1.5 billion a year road building programme, Britain faces decades of increasing congestion and motorway frustration unless other ways can be found of funding important improvements.

Although he intends to use the green paper to start a national debate on the subject, Mr MacGregor has made known that the consultation period will not be long and that legislation could be pushed through within the life of this Parliament.

Charging drivers who use motorways and other selected main roads as much as £50 a year on top of the current vehicle excise duties is certain to spark strong opposition from motoring organisations, industry and local communities, who say drivers would avoid road tolls by using minor routes, transferring congestion and pollution from purpose-built motorways to hundreds of villages and towns.

Mr MacGregor has so far taken only two firm decisions: there will be no motorway toll booths, which could create



more congestion than they solve, and there will be no universal charge.

Mr MacGregor said on a recent study tour of Norway, which has a sophisticated pay network: "Road charging will not be a universal tax as it would be unfair to charge people who do not use the motorway system."

There are two systems Mr MacGregor wants to explore:

□ Electronic "tagging", in which drivers would have to buy and fit a transponder to the front of their cars. A smart card — much like a telephone credit card — would fit the transponder and could be read and charged by electronic roadside beacons. The number of credits left on the card would be transmitted to a dashboard readout.

□ The "vignette", in which drivers pay a set annual fee to use the motorways and display a small disc in the windscreen, similar to the tax disc.

The RAC and AA will on Monday both publish documents which could signal the

start of widespread opposition to charging motorists already contributing an estimated £19.4 billion to the Treasury.

Mr MacGregor is unlikely to be moved: he has told motorists they can either pay for road improvements or see motorways becoming permanently like the M25 on a Friday night.

The king of pain gains wisdom on spiritual journey

WAS it one of those abstract, inspirational rehearsal techniques that forward-looking theatre directors enjoy inventing? After seeing Robert Stephens' fine *King Lear* at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, I have no better theory. Only four days ago he was in hospital with an infected foot, being fed antibiotics through a drip, and the Royal Shakespeare Company duly postponed the new Stratford season's most eagerly awaited opening. Yet there he was on Thursday night, energies intact, emotions ready, but displaying an acquired symptom of an inner and deeper vulnerability: a slight yet painful limp.

FIRST NIGHT



Benedict Nightingale

The first impression is of a confident, superficially jovial and somewhat vain man. The wavy white hair and curly white beard give him the look of Hal's "Laughing Cavalier", and his manner is of some infinitely upmarket Barnham or Ziegfeld, a born showman unsurprisingly maddened when his most spectacular production, the handover of the crown, is spoilt by Cordelia's mulishness. Then come unease, resentment, rancour, malevolent rage and, in their wake, something profounder. More than any we have seen recently, his Lear makes a spiritual journey, looking beyond his personal wrongs to see the injustices endured by others and feeling beyond his own pain to share the suffering of lesser beings. "Thou should not have been old till thou hadst been wise", spoken with unusual force by Jan Hughes's Fool, is a key line, as it should be.

Stephens is best when he is acknowledging his own and others' weaknesses.

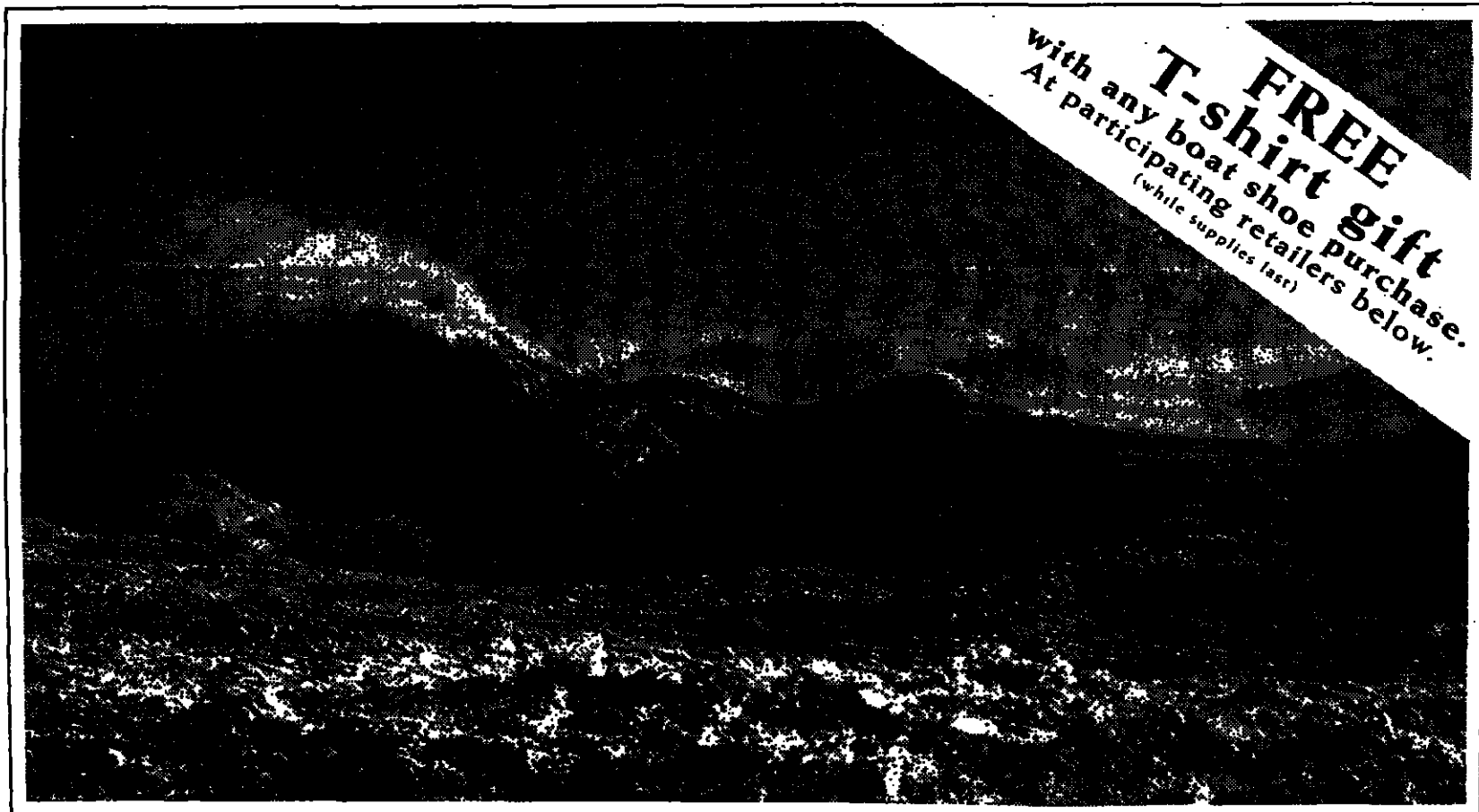
How movingly that hoarse, fruitily voice of his can express simple tenderness for the world's "poor naked wretches" or for those nearer home: "Art cold? I am cold myself." When he says: "Oh Fool, I shall go mad", the very "Oh" is a thin wall of dismay and disbelief that few other actors would attempt, let alone bring off. Adrian Noble's production is brisk, undisturbed and to the point. The stage is bare but for a scrawled map of England over which blood spreads as the evening proceeds.

A thick steel barrier intermittently falls, and behind that a backcloth fills with suggestive images: cancerous blobs, weird grey shapes and a bruised-looking moon that cracks open strewn sand. But the symbolism does not intrude on a cast that includes David Bradley's Gloucester, a tin man who discovers a heart in himself, Owen Teale's sveith, yuppie Edmund and, from Simon Russell Beale, a namby pamby Edgar who transforms himself into a distraught Caliban, caked with blood and mud.

There are lapses. Why must Lear's unruly knights, just back from hunting, look like newly minted toy soldiers, fresh and clean and neat? And even Stephens can be slovenly with his diction, turning "sigh" into "sigh" and "most into "mos". But where it matters he comes through. What was that sniffing noise when he was reconciled with Abigail McKern's Cordelia or, later, choked out "never, never, never" over her corpse? It was the people around me. It was, believe it or not, me.

□ This review appeared in later editions of *The Times* yesterday.

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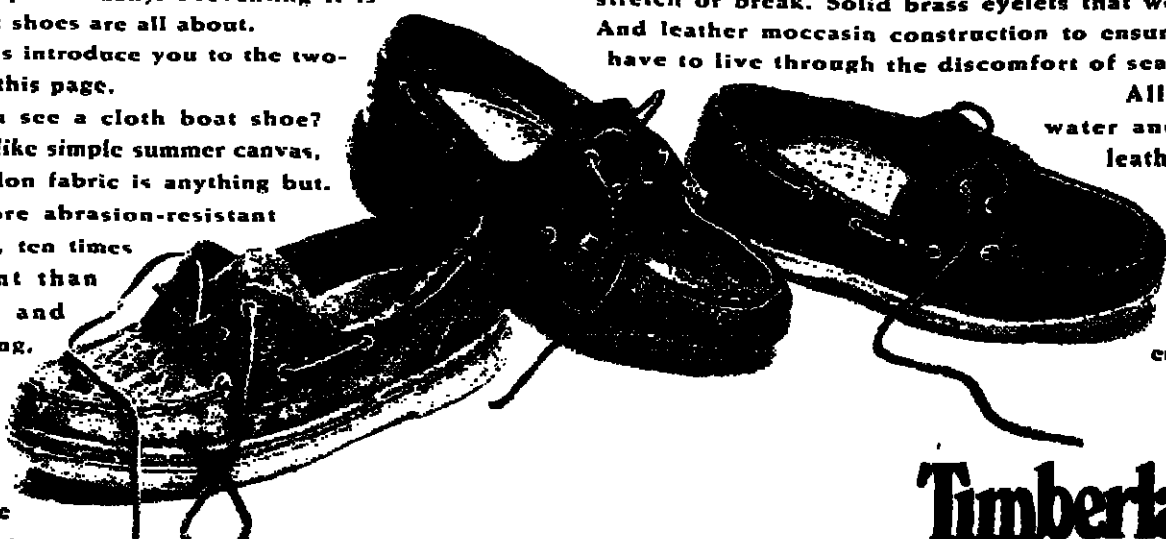
On the left you see a cloth boat shoe? Although it may look like simple summer canvas, the new Cordura® nylon fabric is anything but. Up to five times more abrasion-resistant than ordinary canvas, ten times more scuff-resistant than ordinary leather and extremely quick-drying, to boot.

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Credo

A split the church must put in past

Peter Selby

YOU could be forgiven for thinking that the Church of England's vote last November to stop excluding women from the priesthood was a sudden coup or a dreadful accident. So the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament, and the House of Bishops when it meets next month, are going to be pressed to bend every effort to be "fair" and to think of yet further "safeguards" for those opposed to women priests.

Have we forgotten that it took 70 years to reach this decision longed for by so many? And, worse, have we lost our hold on the new possibilities this decision opens up for us? It is likely that among those of us who are strongly in favour of the ordination of women there is more sympathy for the minority who disagree with us than for those who are bishops. After all, for years we have watched and, in the case of those of us who are bishops, carried out, all-male ordinations. We have found much to celebrate in the ministries these ordinations have recognised, but at the same time found them morally defective, demeaning to women, and a major test of conscience.

Not only that: in recent years we have taken part in a complex process of prayer, study, negotiation and legislation, much of which has treated women as a "problem" and their ordination as a "difficulty". We have had to accept that the Church of England was not ready for a simple, uncompromising decision.

Certainly there were no "safeguards" for us or, more importantly, for the women at the sharp end of the struggle. And probably that was right after all: belonging to the church is an act of trust. The opponents campaigned so strongly that until the moment when the votes were announced I was

convinced, like many others, that the measure would fail. But it didn't, and what happened is a gift of delight not just to women ordinands and their congregations and supporters, but to those inside and outside the Church of England who hardly dared to believe that it could ever make a positive decision to welcome the future about any significant issue.

Those who disagree with the decision have the right to ask for understanding, and that the safeguards already contained in November's Measure shall be honoured. They do not have the right, and must not be given the power, to smooth or our delight with their depression. In any case, they will not find the ordination of women more acceptable if it is done by a church with a long face. Nor should anyone imagine that it would be "fair" for them to be able to insist that there should be perpetuity by bishops who carry their opposition to the point of refusing to allow women priests to be ordained or to minister in their dioceses.

If anyone feels they must leave the Church of England for Roman Catholicism, I hope and pray it will be a real homecoming for them. That would be the best reason, and there would be nothing fair to them about detracting from all that last November's decision makes possible to try to stop them. To do so would once again be asking women to continue to bear a burden they have borne long enough, and there is nothing fair about that either.

Dr Peter Selby is William Leach Professorial Fellow in Applied Christian Theology at Durham University.

Next week: The Ven George Austin, Archbishop of York.



Bitter Pérez steps down for congress impeachment vote

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

VENEZUELA'S congress met in emergency session yesterday to vote on the impeachment of President Pérez on corruption charges, after the supreme court ruled on Thursday that he should face trial for misusing public funds.

In a bitter speech, Señor Pérez declared his innocence, before agreeing to step down while a trial is held. As his voice stumbled over the words, the 70-year-old politician appeared resigned to what may be the end of a career stretching back more than 50 years.

This is one of the most critical moments of my country's history, and one of the most difficult moments in my political career," he said, with trembling hands. "This decision... will have dramatic consequences for the country's economy, and for the very survival of democracy."

After surviving two attempted military coups last year, Señor Pérez fell to a civilian,



Pérez seems resigned to ending his career

constitutional challenge unprecedented in the country's 35 years of uninterrupted democracy. "I would have preferred a different death to this one," he admitted.

Yesterday's joint session of congress debated whether to lift his parliamentary immuni-

ty to prosecution, which would effectively impeach the president and suspend him from exercising all presidential powers.

Under the constitution, Octavio Lepage, the senate president, will take over the reins of power, but only for 30 days. Within a month, congress must select an interim president for the duration of Señor Pérez's trial, for which no date has yet been set.

Unless a trial is held quickly, the interim president would probably complete Señor Pérez's five-year term which expires in February 1994. With national elections scheduled in December, a fierce political battle is likely to break out.

Confusion over the correct constitutional procedure has led to fears of a dangerous power vacuum which might lead to a military takeover if civilian institutions fail to restore stability quickly.

The supreme court ruling that Señor Pérez should stand trial accused of misusing \$17.2 million (£11.1 million) from a secret presidential slush fund, was celebrated by most Venezuelans as a long overdue blow against a political elite that has earned public disgust.

Although by no means the worst offender, diplomats say Señor Pérez fell victim to widespread outrage at a political system that has appeared to tolerate rampant public corruption and inefficiency.

Popular frustration has worsened in the face of a painful paradox. While Venezuela has enjoyed a sustained economic boom, thanks largely to oil, and recorded the highest figures for annual growth in Latin America in the 1990s (between 8 and 10 per cent), living standards for the majority have fallen drastically, with soaring costs for poorly performing public services.

"This is Venezuela's equivalent of the fall of the Berlin Wall," said José Vicente Rangel, a prominent journalist who first uncovered the slush fund.

The roots of corruption date back to the 1950s when the country's modern political structure took shape. The discovery of large reserves turned Venezuela into the third largest oil exporter in the world but also helped to sustain the abuse of power and the personal enrichment of corrupt officials.

"Pérez is only the head of a malignant tumour," said Andrés Velásquez, the presidential candidate for the radical Causa R party. "His departure does not mean that corruption will come to an end."

Dissidents held as envoys visit Tibet

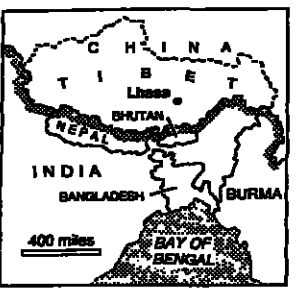
BY JONATHAN MIRSKY, EAST ASIA EDITOR

WITH the largest team of European diplomats ever to visit Tibet investigating allegations of human rights abuses in the region, the Chinese authorities have locked up dozens of dissidents.

Three especially well-known independence activists have been detained since the 11 ambassadors and other diplomats arrived last Sunday. The dissidents who have been detained include Gendun Rinchen, one of Tibet's best known tour guides, a former monk from Lhasa's Drepung monastery, and a woman.

The three were suspected by the authorities of preparing to penetrate the Chinese security screen that normally surrounds diplomats visiting Tibet. Tibetans are highly skilled at finding such visitors and either slipping notes and documents into their pockets.

The latest detentions bring the total number of Tibetan political prisoners to more than three hundred. The London-based Tibet Information Network and Amnesty International have used their contacts in Tibet to estimate the number of prisoners. Earlier this week Amnesty called for the release of the prisoners, whom it described as the kind of Tibetans "the Chinese authorities have accused of possessing information on



human rights violations in Tibet"

The Foreign Office says that it regards the arrests as a matter of "extreme urgency," and Norman Godman, MP, chairman of the All-Parliamentary Group for Tibet, has written to John Major demanding that he withdraw the British representative on the diplomatic team if he is "not able to ensure the safety of the prisoners or secure their release."

Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, has barred a leading Chinese human rights activist from the UN headquarters building (James Bone writes).

Dr Boutros Ghali bowed to pressure from the Chinese government to prevent Shen Tong, an exiled leader of the pro-democracy movement crushed in Tiananmen Square, from meeting journalists at the press club in the UN building.



Songs of praise: supporters of José María Aznar, leader of Spain's main opposition Popular party, chanting slogans at a nocturnal fiesta in Madrid to mark yesterday's start of campaigning for the general election on June 6.

Mindful that the early election was precipitated by a scandal involving allegedly illegal donations to the ruling Socialist party for their 1989 campaign, all the parties have agreed to limit election expenses (Edward Owen

writes). Great use will be made of television, in a country of 20.5 million voters where few read newspapers. The first debate between Señor Aznar and Felipe González, the prime minister, will be shown on Monday.

Cambodians ready to vote for peace

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

FOR Cambodians it is perhaps — just perhaps — the beginning of a dream of a better life after years of war as they go to the polls tomorrow. The mood here is tense and fearful but surprisingly upbeat. Cambodians are eager for an elected government both they, and the international community, can rally round.

However, even the glories of Angkor Wat contain reminders of the fragility of the situation with more than 1,000 Cambodian refugees huddled among their possessions in the stone galleries with their backs to the walls, their villages destroyed in the fighting this month, they have taken

refuge there because they feel none of the warring factions will attack the ruins. Yet despite their fear, many will be leaving their refuge to cast their votes in the first multiparty elections in the country since 1972. The Khmer Rouge, under whose rule up to a million Cambodians died from 1975-9, can threaten to do its worst, but most of Cambodia's 4.7 million registered voters will take part in the elections, supervised by the United Nations, in a country that has known no peace since the American bombing against Vietnamese communist sanctuaries began in 1968.

Rosemary Righter, page 14

Rabin looks right to end left feud

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, yesterday threatened to bring two ultra-right parties into his left-wing coalition government, in a move that would deal a death blow to the peace process.

Frustrated by the political feud between his two junior coalition partners, the Israeli leader confirmed that he had drawn up a "draft document" to open the way for the right-wing Tsomet party and its ideological stablemate, the National Religious party, to join the government.

"Rabin would like to broaden the basis of the government and have more bodies to join the coalition because he believes it would strengthen the government," the prime min-

ister's office said. "In a time of Arab-Israeli negotiations, it is important to have solid support in the Knesset."

Israeli pundits predicted that the flirtation with the right was simply a tactical move to bring his coalition partners — the left-wing Meretz party and the ultra-Orthodox Shas party, into line. The two parties have been locked in an ideological battle over Shalom Alumi, the Meretz leader, who has defended the religious establishment with her secularist and feminist outbursts. If the right-wing parties did enter the coalition, it would alter radically the profile of the year-old government, the most left-wing in Israel's history.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Koresh 'was shot by his top aide'

Houston: Forensic experts suspect that cult leader David Koresh's chief lieutenant shot him with a rifle as their religious compound went up in flames, then put the barrel under his chin and killed himself, the *Houston Chronicle* reported.

It was unclear to the experts whether Steven Emil Schneider killed Koresh at his own request, the newspaper said. According to unidentified sources, pathologists believe that after the fire started in the compound near Waco, Texas, Schneider sat in the communications room with Koresh, then aimed a rifle at the centre of his forehead and fired. After that, the 48-year-old former professor of religion killed himself.

Officials in the Tarrant County medical examiner's office would not comment on the report. The number who died in the compound on April 19 is unclear but investigators said they believed the total was 78, including 22 children. (AP)

HIV millions

Geneva: About 14 million people worldwide are infected with HIV, the precursor of Aids, the World Health Organisation said yesterday. Eight million of those infected live in sub-Saharan Africa. In some towns in central and eastern Africa one in three adults is infected. (AP)

Cairo bombing

Cairo: A car bomb exploded outside a police station in a crowded area of central Cairo yesterday, killing a girl, 10, a man, and injuring about 30 other people. The attack was believed to have been the work of Islamic militants.

Kaunda son out

Lusaka: Zambian authorities revoked detention orders against eight opposition figures, including Wezi Kaunda, a son of former President Kaunda, but then arrested them again on charges of sedition. Mr Kaunda was freed on bail. (Reuters)

Eggstortionists

Dhaka: Seven Bangladeshi chicken traders will be fined up to 1,000 taka (£16) each after post-mortem examinations revealed they had fed their birds bones to bolster their weight. (Reuters)

Teresa better

Rome: Mother Teresa, 83, was released from hospital after a fall in which she broke three ribs. She will convalesce in a private clinic. (Reuters)

Volgograd gives Stalin's image a shine

Volgograd, if Svetlana, the ferocious chief guide at the city's war museum had her way, would still be Stalingrad and proud of it. Pride in the glorious achievements of the Red Army lives on in the city whose defeat of the Wehrmacht in early 1943 after a four-month siege and desperate counter-attacks ranks as one of the turning points of the second world war.

Like many other middle-aged residents, Svetlana is convinced that Stalin has been much maligned and regards it as her job to correct the Western misapprehension that the war was a conflict between Germany on the one hand and the allies on the other. It was, in fact, the result of a carefully prepared *konspiraziya* between Britain and Germany to undermine communism, she says.

Shepherding her group of British tourists through a tank by tank tour of the campaign for Stalingrad, her account of the war still bears the spin of Soviet ideology untouched by glasnost, the fall of communism or the opening of the party archives. Her tales of heroism grew wilder and less credible as we progressed, managing in their crass exaggeration to obscure the true stories of bravery and sacrifice to which the city can attest.

She stopped reverently before a frieze depicting a young soldier receiving his communist party membership card in the trenches. "In those days," she intoned, "the party enjoyed great authority. Why did this change, you may ask? Well, that is a difficult subject." Her features dropped and she waved a dismissive hand.

In the first of a series of articles, Anne McElvoy discovers a lingering affection for Stalin in Volgograd, as she heads for the Central Asian republics



"Something happened," she concluded lamely. Volgograd remains a model Russian town, dominated by the vast statue of Mother Russia brandishing her sword aloft in defence of the Soviet Union. At the base of the monument a cigarette seller was being driven away by a furious veteran who resented the intrusion of commerce onto such hallowed ground.

Amply rewarded for its stand against the Germans by Moscow, the city boasts an unusually pleasant centre with carefully tended tree-lined boulevards, restored buildings and more than its fair share of giant socialist statues. Volgograd has been barely affected by the advent of capitalism: the drinking water fountains still sparkle and the kiosks — which in more cynical cities have been given over to traders selling whisky, trackuits and condoms —

still dispense their innocent wares of cheap ice-cream and sweet drinks here.

War veterans are treated with respect and wear their medals with pride on national holidays when they congregate on the bank of the vast river to swap memories. Lydia Ruchlova is an elderly lady with her own clutch of awards for her work as a nurse on the frontline where she gave her own blood for the wounded when supplies ran out.

"We could not have fought as we did without Stalin to lead us," she said. "He put the iron in our souls. They say he is bad but he gave us bread without rationing by 1947, so how could he be bad?"

Svetlana, albeit from a more intellectual standpoint, agreed. Her capacity for conspiracy theories was inexhaustible. "Churchill wanted to bleed the Soviet Union to death on the German sword," she explained. "It is



Sword play: Mother Russia towers over Volgograd which, as Stalingrad, repelled the Wehrmacht

a well-known fact that the West continued helping Germany until 1945."

She also claimed that Britain had stopped sending supplies to Russia in 1942. One irritated veteran of the Murmansk convoys of that year added that it was an "established fact" that the British had sunk their own ships rather than allow the cargoes to reach Russia.

The vast portrait of Stalin bode ill for international understanding. It was "proved by documents" that he had "only murdered half a million people", Svetlana said. Admittedly, this had not always been justifiable. "But my theory is that he was sometimes a weak man and those around him who had contacts with foreign countries misled him."

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Eritreans launch second war for economic freedom

Britain has just recognised the world's newest independent nation. Sam Kiley, Africa Correspondent, visited Eritrea to assess its prospects after decades of war

ERITREANS celebrate their official independence day on Monday, a year after their capital, Asmara, was liberated by rebels from the yoke of Ethiopian domination, and a month after 99.8 per cent of them voted for secession from Addis Ababa.

The Italianate city of Asmara and the ports of Assab and Massawa have been the scenes of almost non-stop festivities since the referendum on April 23. Coffee shops and rebuilt restaurants selling pasta and cappuccino have been filled with the smiling faces of newly returned exiles. But as the joy of independence, after more than 100 years of invasion and colonisation, is replaced with the responsibilities facing the Eritrean government, the smiles may fade.

Issayas Aferwork, the president of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front,

which fought for independence along with other rebels against Emperor Haile Selassie and his successor, Mengistu Haile Mariam, since 1961, faces the twin burdens of establishing democracy and promoting economic growth from a baseline of less than zero.

More than 75 per cent of Eritreans are dependent on food aid while a further 500,000 are living in refugee camps in Sudan; the government cannot afford to bring them home. In addition, 110,000 former fighters have to be found jobs, 60,000 children are war cripples and another 45,000 have been orphaned. The average annual income per head is \$98.

The front government, which is self-appointed by dint of its victory in May 1991, estimates that it will cost \$1,600 million to rebuild Eritrea's roads, agriculture and industry. So far the World Bank has promised \$64 million.

However, the obsessive regard for self-reliance which brought the guerrillas victory against Mengistu's Soviet-backed, and often Soviet-led, army has meant that private investors have been slow to respond. "The trouble is that the government, and individuals, see foreign investment in Eritrea as some sort of



Nation on the march: an Eritrean fighter at a passing-out parade in front of the main church in Asmara and, right, redecoration of a government building in the capital



PHOTOGRAPHS: SEAMUS MURPHY

honour. They think that as they managed on their own for 30 years they can do it alone now," a senior member of an aid agency feeding most of the country said.

Eritrea has not inherited debts from its years under rule from Addis Ababa and has gained control of the

main ports in the region. It hopes to attract members of the Eritrean diaspora, many of whom are highly educated, back home. A third of the 2.5 million voters in April's referendum did so from overseas. The governor of the central bank and the agriculture minister have been recently

imported from America. So far the international community has shown nothing but goodwill towards the world's newest nation, the 52nd in Africa.

This week the British government joined a host of others in recognising the new state, but future largesse from

donors will depend on respect for human rights and democratisation. The front is to hold a congress soon, which is likely to produce at least three separate parties reflecting ideological differences within the organisation. But the older Eritrean Liberation Front has com-

plained that it doubts Mr Aferwork's commitment to total political pluralism. He has said he does not want to allow parties to form along regional or ethnic lines. Eritrea will be welcomed into the Organisation of African Unity at its general assembly in Cairo next

month, not least because it has the most efficient and best respected army on the continent and promises to play a significant role in the ever more necessary peace-making and peacekeeping operations.

Leading article, page 15

South African army deserter claims he was hit-squad recruit

BY RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AN ARMY deserter claiming to be a paid assassin for South African military intelligence has handed himself over to the African National Congress, saying he was ordered to murder nine black activists.

The independent Goldstone commission said yesterday it was investigating the claims by Noel Sibanyoni, including the origin of a handgun he gave to the commission in the presence of reporters this week. Mr Sibanyoni, 24, said he joined the army in 1989 and had been recruited to military intelligence by a Colonel Venter in 1990. "I am a member of one of six groups whose operatives are to assassinate selected targets from Friday, May 21," he said.

He was to have begun his mission in the Eastern Transvaal but had a change of heart when he realised the first name on his "hit-list" was that of his neighbour, Cobra Jiyane, a prominent civic leader allied to the ANC. Two others listed for assassination were ministers of the Kwa-Ndebele homeland, one of whom he had already attempted to kill, he said.

Mr Sibanyoni's accusations came a week after a man made public a plot to kill Joe Slovo, the South African Com-

munist Party chairman, saying he feared it could have sparked civil war. News of that plot followed the assassination on April 10 of Chris Hani, the black former guerrilla and communist leader.

Mr Sibanyoni said: "Since 1991 I have been asked to carry out a number of assassinations, but my missions failed in the eleventh hour." He said he was recruited for assassinations by a white military intelligence officer he knew as Major Liebenberg, from Voortrekkerhoogte army headquarters near Pretoria.

For his latest mission he had been given a 9mm pistol, seven bullets and a list of people to be killed, and he said he was promised a 7,000 rand (\$1,400) bonus for every assassination.

Mr Sibanyoni said there were two men in each unit. He identified his "partner" as a "Mr Mashigo". He gave an army number but could not produce a military identity card. He gave a copy of a handwritten "hit-list" and the gun to J.J. du Toit, of the commission which is led by Judge Richard Goldstone and which was appointed by President de Klerk to investigate political violence.

People on Mr Sibanyoni's

list included Jackson Mthembu, a prominent Eastern Transvaal ANC official and Nomavovo Mahlangu and Humphrey Mahbena, Kwa-Ndebele homeland ministers. "Last year I was promised 25,000 rands to kill Nomavovo Mahlangu. I waited for him during the night as he travelled from Sibabuswa (the former capital of the homeland) and tried to hit the front wheel of his car so that it could overturn, but I missed," he added.

He said that when he realised that one of the people on the list was Mr Jiyane, he confessed to him last week. Lower-level activists within the ANC had been chosen for assassination with the intention of not inviting the same violent reaction that followed the assassination of Hani.

Three people detained in connection with his assassination were charged yesterday with his murder. The trial begins on June 23 at Rand Supreme Court in Johannesburg. Clive Derby-Lewis, a leading member of the right-wing Conservative Party, his wife, Gaye, and Janus Walusz, a Polish immigrant, are accused of murder, conspiracy to murder and illegal possession of arms and ammunition.



Xanana: guns charges

East Timor rebel jailed for life

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AN INDONESIAN court yesterday sentenced Xanana Gusmao, the East Timor rebel leader, to life imprisonment. He has led the Fretilin rebel movement for most of the 17 years that East Timor has been ruled by Indonesia.

He was found guilty of rebellion, conspiracy to set up a separate state and the illegal possession of firearms. "The reason the punishment is so heavy is that the defendant's actions disturbed stability in East Timor," Heironymus Godang, the judge, told the Dili court.

Indonesia's rule in the former Portuguese colony has never been recognised by the United Nations and Portugal vowed to call on the international community to protest against the sentence.

Disney's Aladdin rubs Arabs up the wrong way

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

IN A new slant on political correctness, a group of Arab-Americans is campaigning for changes in Walt Disney's *Aladdin*, the biggest hit for an animated film, because of what it alleges are racial slurs.

Since the 1991 Gulf war and the outpouring of international hatred for President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, the Arabs have become more sensitive to what they perceive as their misrepresented image in the West. The American-Arab anti-discrimination committee claimed at a press conference in Bahrain that the film, based on a character in the classic Arabian Nights, makes slurs against Arabs that would never be accepted if directed at any other racial group.

The Arab campaigners are particularly conscious of the strong defence mounted by Jewish-American groups against any alleged defamation or caricatures of Jews.

"I come from a land where they cut off your ear, if they don't like your face. It's barbaric, but hey, it's home," run the opening lyrics of the new film, according to a text distributed by the committee.

The Walt Disney Film Studio in Burbank, California, which had earlier rejected the committee's demands to remove the alleged slurs before the film is released on video on October 1, appeared to soften its position after the publicity surrounding the protests.

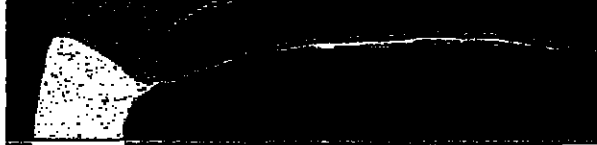
James Abourezk, a former American senator who represented South Dakota from 1973-9, and who is the committee's founder-chairman, said that Albert Mokhiber, the committee president, had gone to California to press the case with Disney executives. The Oscar-winning film has already made \$202 million (\$130 million) in America and is expected to make a further \$600 million when the video goes on sale.

"We are aware of their concerns, and we are meeting with the concerned groups next Wednesday here at the studio, and no decision has been made," a Disney spokesman said. He said he was not aware of any precedent for changing lyrics or lines in such cases.

Howard Ashman, who wrote the catchy lyrics has since died of Aids. Before the committee's intervention this week, a Disney spokesman tried to dismiss the complaints as "old news".

The committee is conducting a publicity campaign in the Gulf to explain its work. In addition to trying to fight stereotypes and discrimination, it has embarked on various lawsuits, including one against the American government.

CHWAL DISNEY PICTURES



Dim view: Arab-Americans claim the film is racist

US bids cheers to bar-stool dreamers

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

AN estimated 100 million people crammed, via television, into a Boston bar on Thursday night to offer one last bibulous farewell to *Cheers*, the hugely popular American sitcom that has been taken off air after 11 years and 275 episodes.

All the regulars were there - Sam the barman, Norm the barmid, Carla the barmid-for-the-long-awaited, 98-minute finale in which, even President Clinton had been expected to make a guest appearance, but did not. The last episode was not just a tribute to one of the most successful and inspired sitcom formulas in the business, but an illustration of the astonishing power of television in American life. William Weld, the Massachusetts governor, proclaimed Thursday "Cheers Day", the cast members were honoured at a joint session of the State House and Senate and politicians fought for a photo-opportunity next to the stars.

The end of the series ought, by rights, to have been a sobering moment for the NBC television network, which is now losing one of its most successful and profitable shows. In the event, as a result of judicious and more or less continual hype over the past few months, the network turned the end of *Cheers* into what it called, somewhat excessively, "television's greatest night ever" and charged advertisers \$650,000 (\$420,000) a minute.

The passing of the show evoked the sort of plangent prose among American critics usually reserved for obituaries. "They had big dreams and little dreams," wrote Tom Shales in *The Washington Post*. "Some had foolish dreams and frivolous dreams... but in the strivings of the *Cheers* crew, one saw one's own strivings, and the fact that they lived to fight another week provided its own kind of sustenance."

Women activists harassed by man's \$1m award for sexual torment

BY BEN MACINTYRE

THE debate over sexual harassment in the American workplace has been thrown into greater turmoil by the record \$1 million (\$650,000) damages awarded this week to Sabino Gutierrez, a former manager of a California spa bath manufacturing plant who sued his female boss for sexual harassment.

There have been a few cases of men suing women for harassment but none so lucratively. While Gloria Allred, Mr Gutierrez's lawyer, greeted the verdict against Maria Martinez, his former chief

financial officer and personnel director, as a vindication of the rights of "all persons, including men... to a workplace free of the hostile and intolerable conditions of sexual harassment", others claim that the award was out of proportion.

Some women's rights activists, who would normally be expected to line up in staunch defence of a sexually harassed person, say the verdict reflects deep-rooted prejudice against powerful women in business positions, and moreover obscures the fact that the majority of cases of sexual harassment are

still perpetrated by men against women. The director of Cal Spas, the manufacturing company named as co-defendant in this case, claims the jury was biased against Ms Martinez because of her business success. Many civil rights activists agree that if the sexes in this case had been reversed, the award would almost certainly have been far lower.

"This is a case about claims and allegations and his [Mr Gutierrez] word against a woman's word, an Hispanic woman in a position of authority," Mary Moloney Roberts, Ms Martinez's lawyer, said. "The

jury did not want to believe her". Cases of sexual harassment litigation include a handful in which women have allegedly used their power or seniority in the workplace to extract sexual favours: in 1982 a state office employee in Wisconsin, who was demoted after refusing the advances of his supervisor, was awarded \$25,000 by a federal judge. Last year an aide to a Minneapolis-St Paul councillor accused his boss of continual harassment and ridicule. He is suing her and the city.

The latest surveys show that examples of men being sexually

harassed by women amount to about 1 per cent of total cases, but the volume is growing. This is a partial reflection of the growing number of women in positions of authority in American business, as well as a greater sensitivity among the public to what constitutes unacceptable sexual behaviour.

The incidence of sexual harassment by women has been largely hidden up to now, say legal experts, because men are more aware than their female colleagues of the social stigma attached to sexual harassment and thus are far less likely to report it. Men, moreover, appear to

find suggestive behaviour less offensive. Some even welcome it.

A 1986 study by the employment group Nine to Five showed that sexually harassed women were nine times more likely than men to leave their jobs and five times more likely to apply for transfer. Women were also three times more likely to lose their jobs after rejecting unwanted sexual advances. Some male lobby groups insist that sexual harassment by women is far more widespread than men are prepared to admit. American popular culture expects men to be the initiators of sexual activity.



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■ The right to say things that others find unpalatable is being upheld in court, if not by universities

Because of the prevailing ethos of political correctness and the intense efforts that are made in schools, universities, and elsewhere to suppress all expressions of racial, sexual or religious prejudice, it is easy to form the impression that free speech in America is dead.

But it isn't. You may not discriminate against people for their sex, religion or colour, and you may not call black people water buffalos to their faces (I refer to the current case at Pennsylvania University in which a Jewish student faces trial for doing just that without risking punishment for violating people's civil rights. But provided you do not direct your remarks at any particular person or group, you can say almost anything you like.

This was triumphantly proven this week when a jury awarded \$400,000 damages against six officials of the City University of New York for removing Dr Leonard Jeffries from his job as chairman of the Black Studies Department at City College in Harlem.

One of the jurors who fixed the damages said afterwards that he had found Dr Jeffries "sort of an odious individual, a religious zealot, not a teacher, not a scholar, a horrible person to have as a chairman of a department, and the least truthful of all the witnesses" in the three-week trial. But this juror added: "I'm afraid the evidence was definitely in his favour. They definitely violated his rights."

Dr Jeffries was removed following a speech he made two years ago in Albany, the capital of New York State, saying there was "a conspiracy planned and programmed out of Hollywood" by Jews and the Mafia to cause "the destruction of black people". He also said that Jews had helped to finance the slave trade.

This did not go down well with either Jews or Americans of Italian extraction. New York Senator Alfonse d'Amato called for his dismissal, and Governor Mario Cuomo denounced him. University officials then decided to sack Dr Jeffries from the department he had run for 20 years, though they allowed him to go on teaching and to retain his \$70,000 salary. This proved a terrible mistake. Dr Jeffries decided to appeal; most members of the faculty took his side, and the black studies department has been effectively paralysed ever since. When the case came to court, with Dr Jeffries asking for reinstatement and \$25 million damages, the university authorities found themselves without a viable defence.

Having only once reprimanded him during his 20-year tenure (for persistent

lateness in class), and having dismissed him without a hearing and without giving reasons, they had to fall back on a claim that they had fired him not for his inflammatory speech but because he was a bad administrator. But the jury didn't believe them. The jury was convinced that the reason for his dismissal was his speech, and that he had thereby suffered a violation of his constitutional right to express what ever views he wanted, however offensive anybody else might find them. A judge must now decide whether to order his reinstatement.

Dressed as is his wont in traditional African robes, Dr Jeffries was jubilant. "We're elated that there has been trial, tribulation and triumph," he said. "The message is clear that there is freedom of speech. That umbrella stretches to African-Americans." But City College has suffered a humiliating setback. It was the second time in two years that it had botched an attempt to impose civility on a member of its staff. Last year an appeals court ruled that it had violated the constitutional rights of a white philosophy professor, Michael Levin, by trying to squeeze him out of his job after he had written on several occasions that blacks were on average less intelligent than whites.

In both cases the college authorities responded to pressure from enraged politicians and financial supporters by taking precipitate action which could not be defended in a court of law. The college might have been able to get rid of Dr Jeffries if it had been able to prove that his speech had in some way disrupted its operations, but it never tried to do this, which would have involved holding hearings to establish in what manner its interests had been jeopardised.

Many in American universities argue for restrictions on the right of teachers to make statements offensive to particular social or ethnic groups. But in the meantime, they are stymied by the First Amendment. Too often, universities seem to forget this when they discipline professors or students for making supposedly racist or sexist remarks.

As a result, the Federal courts are regularly overturning university decisions on constitutional grounds, hoping, perhaps, to teach them a lesson. But this lesson is apparently too hard for them to learn. Such is the faith of university officials in the rightness of their own values, as they seek to promote tolerance and diversity on campus, that they seem unable to accept that so fine a thing as the American Constitution may not automatically be on their side.

UN forces must remain in Cambodia well after tomorrow's elections, argues Rosemary Righter

Raced for violence, desperate for something approaching democratic stability if not peace, Cambodians will start converging tomorrow on nearly 1,500 polling stations. Terrorised as much of the country has been by Khmer Rouge guerrillas bent on wrecking the elections, their enthusiasm is extraordinary. Of those eligible to vote, 95 per cent have registered, and crowds of up to 20,000 walk miles to rallies. Twenty parties, some of them minute, are competing for seats in the assembly which is to draft a constitution and appoint a government within three months.

This zeal for democracy is the most notable success of the 22,000-strong United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac), which has spent 14 months preparing this chance of national escape from the traumatising Khmer Rouge reign of terror after 1975's Year Zero and the two decades of brutal civil war which left the country one vast minefield.

Untac has also largely cleared at least the roads of mines, and has resettled 370,000 refugees. The press is free, and human rights organisations are active. But when the Khmer Rouge refused to disarm, the UN had no mandate to compel it to comply — with the result that the planned demobilisation of the four main Cambodian factions has not happened. The UN also failed to take control of the civil administration, breaking

A slim chance of peace is better than none

the corrupt and repressive grip of the old communist government installed by Vietnam in 1979.

In consequence, the electoral atmosphere is so far removed from the "neutral political environment" which the UN was charged to create that the senior UN electoral officer is on record as believing that in Cambodia "democracy will not work".

These elections are a gamble. They will not be "free and fair", they may, as in Angola, be merely the prelude to the resumption of all-out civil war. Even Yasushi Akashi, the man in charge of Untac, hopes for no more than "a fairly respectable and credible" outcome. The Khmer Rouge, one of the four "partners" in the UN's October 1991 peace agreement, has used its status only to sabotage the plan. It has refused to contest the elections or to accept the outcome, pulled its delegates out of Phnom Penh last month, and increased its military strength by 50 per cent.

Faced with the threat of Khmer Rouge attacks on polling stations and

unable to order his men into action, the UN's military commander, Lt Gen John Sanderson — an Australian usually so sanguine that his nickname is "No Problem" — has been reduced to authorising the other Cambodian factions to take "offensive action". He has taken this decision knowing that the Phnom Penh regime has sought to terrorise the population into voting for its Cambodian People's Party (CPP), confiscating voting papers and killing or wounding more than 100 opposition party workers.

These are appalling conditions. But to postpone elections would have given a veto to the Khmer Rouge, whose forces control a fifth of the country at most, although they have infiltrated elsewhere. The UN presence is reinforced by hundreds of monitors from dozens of countries who have volunteered out of determination to prevent the return of the Khmer Rouge's murderous rule. Their hope is that if Khmer Rouge attacks can be contained, the UN can

confine electoral abuses to levels that the main Cambodian parties will tolerate for the sake of forming an internationally recognised government.

The key player, as ever, is Cambodia's former ruler and interim president, Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Cambodian respect for the royal house is still so strong that Funcinpec, the party headed by his son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, would poll heavily in genuinely free elections. Ancestral hatred of the Vietnamese tells against the Phnom Penh regime even more heavily than its venality and strong-arm methods: the Khmer Rouge's claims that two million Vietnamese troops are still in Cambodia are nonsense, but widely believed. Were Sihanouk to denounce the election results, he would be firing the opening salvo in a new civil war.

The wily prince has kept his options open. Until now, he has called for a government of "national reconciliation", including the Khmer Rouge — once his jailers and murderers of several of his relatives. Barely

credible to outsiders, this policy corresponds to an almost equally incredible grassroots yearning for an end to war and a lingering vain hope that the Khmer Rouge has changed its spots. But Sihanouk is consistent only in volatility, and whether his son's party or the CPP wins, he may instead broker a coalition with the Phnom Penh regime, whose military strength any new government will need to defeat the Khmer Rouge.

Such a government would be Cambodia's best chance of a future, and would be immediately recognised — clearing the way for the \$880 million already pledged for reconstruction. But even if this happens, the UN should not withdraw precipitately. Untac is scheduled to leave three months after the elections. It will take far longer to train a new army and the disciplined police forces which are essential to end the cavalier official abuses of human rights.

These elections are only the first stage in healing Cambodia's bitter wounds. The Khmer Rouge will go on winning recruits in the rural areas unless the new government, whatever its complexion, is both competent and clean. It must curb corruption and use foreign aid to narrow the gap between the new, overwhelmingly urban rich and a savaged countryside of desperately poor peasants. The UN will have finished the job only when Cambodians are ready to start healing themselves.

Where is the best man now?

Roving Establishment troubleshooters had virtues which are rarely found among today's narrower political class

A tall white-haired figure was striding towards us down the High. His eyes were open but strangely unfocused. His lofty brow was tilted like a great radar scanner towards heaven. "We have just seen," said my companion, "the original pillar of the Establishment."

The apparition was Oliver Franks, the subject of a new biography by Alex Danchev. He was already a towering enigma. Over the previous decade he had declined to run the Treasury, Nato, the BBC, *The Times*, the Coal Board, British Railways, BP, Harrow School and the Bank of England. He had taken a ten-fold cut in salary from the chairmanship of Lloyds and become Provost of Worcester College, Oxford. His moral rectitude and authority were gigantic. A sea of buses in Carfax paraded miraculously at his approach.

Such men are no more. Whom would John Major now find for such Franksonian tasks as founding Nato, engineering a special relationship with America or getting an entire government off the Falklands hook? Who would be given the chance to pass muster as philosopher, civil servant, statesman, banker and grand inquisitor? Where today is the Prospero who once stood proxy as a one-man supreme court and constitutional guardian?

Every now and then, the British play the game of hunt the Establishment. This month, a wondrous silly row has broken out over whether John Major's troubles relate to his class origins. The Establishment is said to be suffering from bourgeois envy. The giants have departed, the Beveridges, the Redcliffe-Mauds, the Frankses. They were wise as elected politicians can never be. They were backstops to democracy, able men, the aristocracy of virtue.

We should demythologise Franks. He was not a member of the Establishment. Observers such as Henry Fairlie and Anthony Sampson have used this murky concept to describe people of a certain background who run the central institutions of the state. Even on these terms Franks did not qualify. He was a superior hired hand, the mandarin's own 007.

He was brought in on the toughest cases and carefully accepted only those that he alone could crack: the rebuilding of the postwar European economy (as co-ordinator of Marshall Aid) and the forging of Nato and the American nuclear guarantee (as ambassador in Washington). These were stunning achievements, as was his deft exorcism of Margaret Thatcher's cabinet over the Falklands.

Franks was an outsider, a brain unduttered with professional baggage. His father was a Congregational minister, his wife a Quaker. He went to Bristol grammar school and as a scholar to Oxford. Only the war took

him away from academia, and he returned to it in 1952, holding no public office after the age of 47. He was member of no magic circle, no club or coterie. He was something quite different: a reputation, non-partisan, incorrigible. He was "sound", before Thatcherites corrupted the word.

Yet the most important thing about Franks was that he was known. Grandees of the postwar governments were not too proud to go outside their own career circle for help in time of trouble. Partly because of the war, partly because of his own variegated history, the 1945 Labour administration was open to talents. Ernest Bevin, a trade unionist, was a patron of Franks the philosopher. Franks in turn could chat with Robert Hall, Frank Lee and Edwin Plowden (true Establishment men). When Atlee was asked why he had appointed to Washington a man with no known Labour sympathies, he replied that he knew him to be "the best man for the job".

Conventional wisdom states that Britain at this time was class-ridden and hidebound. The civil service, the City, the armed forces, the universities, the Church were based on narrow and interlocking circles of influence. Yet the élites of Franks's day were pluralistic. Downing Street would not have dreamed of intruding on the constitutional autonomy of county councils or university governors or the police or the City. Cabinet ministers would grease his wheels and rub shoulders with men from a



Among the pillars of the Establishment: Oliver Franks, by Karsh

cross-section of careers at their clubs. They knew and were known. Today's élite may be more "meritocratic", but it is no less hidebound. The only outsiders whom most exhausted ministers meet these days are lobbyists, journalists and constituents.

With the broadening of the social background of the Establishment has come a narrowing of its range and outlook. Power over public money and public jobs is concentrated in fewer hands probably than ever since the 18th century. The growth of statutory regulation, the spread of Treasury influence to the whole public sector and the nationalisation of local government has concentrated total

power on just three jobs, those of prime minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Chief Whip, all resident in Downing Street. Today, this is the Establishment *tout court*.

I recently asked a minister how the home secretary would go about finding chairmen for his new centrally appointed police authorities. He said, "Oh, he'll do what we all do, send round to the whips' office." That office has recently acquired patronage over health authorities, urban development corporations and curriculum boards. The principal qualification to be on its list is some sign of Tory commitment, usually as a politician or donor. The range of top

jobs kept within the politicians' closed shop is reminiscent of a Soviet *nomensklatura*, the National Rivers Authority, the Nature Conservancy, the Advertising Standards Authority even the political honours scrutiny committee and the brokering of peace in Bosnia. All have been entrusted to ex-ministers.

The only rival fount of such patronage is the Lord Chancellor's list, used mostly for emergencies (such as last week's Allitt enquiry) and *ad hoc* tribunals. These used to be Franks's forte. They are now the exclusive preserve of lawyers. From train crashes (Hadden) and football disasters (Taylor) to arms-for-Iraq (Scott), lawyers are credited with the nearest to a Franksonian moral integrity that any profession can muster.

I do not assume that the Downing Street Establishment has lost faith in professors, diplomats, generals or company chairmen as the hired hands of government. Nor would I join the cynics who sneer that ministers are narrowing access to top jobs because they feel social inferior to other professions. I suspect the trouble is that, compared with Franks's day, politicians' social contacts are limited. With so much power vested in the centre, they are unwilling to give jobs to people they do not know, and they do not know many people. Hence the recent fiasco of finding "one of us" to fill the dozens of posts on the curriculum councils.

As Peter Riddell shows in his forthcoming book on the career of politics, it is becoming one of Britain's most tightly closed shops. Apart from the lawyers, no member of the present cabinet can boast particular distinction outside parliament. Douglas Hurd might grace a high table and William Waldegrave and John Patten have written serious books, but few would pass the Atlee test of knowing personally "the ablest man in Britain for the job".

Franks's Establishment patrons may have been easy for Anthony Powell and C.P. Snow to satirise, but they had an easy rapport with outside institutions and individuals. Today's Downing Street is more focused, more insulated, more embattled, more paranoid. Britain's non-political great and good have been ostracised by ten years of loyalty oaths, of ideological soundings. If today a Franks were lurking in some philosophy department, I fear he would stay there for ever. That is the charge to lay at the Establishment's door, that it has no knowledge of Aristotle's "magnanimous man".

Alex Danchev's *Oliver Franks: Founding Father (OUP, £25)* will be reviewed next Thursday.

No Welsh rabbit

JOHN Birt is ducking the bricks and barbed wire once again, this time over cuts in services which have caused considerable disquiet in the shadow cabinet. The BBC has abandoned live transmission of the major political party conferences in Wales.

This is a serious blow to the Labour leader, who took to the platform in Llandudno yesterday at the Welsh Labour Party conference. Apart from those delegates crammed in the small hall where John Smith launched his tirade against Tory plans for the welfare state, few of the party faithful had a clue what he was talking about. In the absence of the BBC, the only available transmission was on the local channel S4C — and that was in Welsh.

The venom directed at BBC Wales in Cardiff, which is also dropping live coverage of the Tory and Liberal Democrat conferences, is doubly bitter because the corporation will be relaying the Plaid Cymru conference live this autumn. The nationalists received only

nine per cent of the vote at the election in Wales — compared with 49 per cent for Labour.

Ann Clwyd, the Welsh-speaking shadow heritage secretary who was briefly shadow Welsh secretary, is on the warpath: "I have complained personally to John Birt. It is an outrage. The decision was made without consultation. The only response I have had from the BBC has been garbled and mixed-up."

Geraint Talfan Davies, Controller BBC Wales, is unmoved. "It is reasonable to give live coverage to Plaid Cymru's annual conference in Gwynedd," he says. "The national parties have no equivalent British conference."

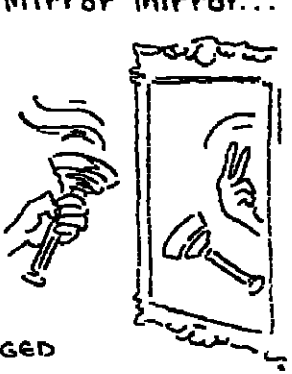
Mirror image

HAS the *Daily Mirror* turned full political circle? The left-wing tabloid appears, at least, to have turned for help to Saatchi and Saatchi, the advertising agency which helped guide the Tories to so many election victories. While the agency refuses to

comment on this unlikely union, Saatchi sources claim talks are taking place — a fact which will doubtless fuel concern among readers. It was, after all, Saatchi and Saatchi's memorable poster in the 1979 campaign, *Labour isn't working*, which helped to propel Mrs Thatcher into office. The agency also coined memorable phrases such as *You can't trust Labour*. And only last year we had *Labour's tax bomb* and *Labour's double Whammy*.

The *Daily Mirror* has been in a state of turmoil since it lost the services of its political editor, Alastair Campbell, and Paul Foot, its left-wing columnist. Their departures coincided with the arrival of David Montgomery as chief executive of Mirror Group newspapers. Before he joined the *Mirror* Montgomery was helping to set up a London-wide satellite news service from a tiny office... at Saatchi and Saatchi.

Michael Portillo, the chief secretary to the Treasury, may be under siege but not everyone is shunning the rising star of the right for floating the end to pensioners' free prescriptions. *Pride of place* in his Treasury office will soon be devoted to a signed photograph of Ronald Reagan, sent by the former US president to mark Portillo's 40th birthday next week. The embattled minister is still waiting, however, for his autographed black and white of John Major.



DIARY

Double winner

CONSOLATION for Nick Hornby, whose book *Fever Pitch* failed to win the NCR Book Award on Thursday night, which was also Cup Final night. He is now £2,000 richer, thanks to a considerable wager on Arsenal winning both the Coca Cola Cup and the FA Cup. Not only that, but Hornby married yesterday morning and is currently in Palermo, Sicily, enjoying his winnings.

Thursday was a tense evening — Hornby's lone vigil in a specially set-up television room was punctuated with visits from Michael Palin, one of the judges and an avid Sheffield Wednesday fan. Hornby, who has recently moved house, is North Londoner by heart. Arsenal's Highbury ground, was reluctant to come to the

book award when he could have been at the match. His decision was swayed, he says, because of the impromptu television facilities and his confidence in the team. "I will only get asked once to this book prize but Arsenal will win the Cup many times."

Brass nerve

TALK about taking coals to Newcastle. For the first time next month a 27-piece Salvation Army brass band from St Petersburg comes to Britain and will spend a month touring and evangelising. It is only two years since the Army opened its first "corps" in St Petersburg. Now it has four, all with Russian soldiers and officers. And they evidently judge it time to teach their British counterparts a thing or two about religious music.

Officially, Britain's Salvationists are delighted. A spokesman says: "It's wonderful, I suppose it is a little like teaching grandmother to suck eggs but I think grandmother could do with a little teaching. In this country we have rather lost the excitement. In Russia they are excited about religion. We need a bit more of that."



Lumley as Symonds? Corbett as Treford?

The paper dream factory

SOME of the finest minds in Fleet Street have been stirred by a suggestion in *The Times* this week that Stephen Glover's book *Paper Dreams*, about the founding of *The Independent*, has the ingredients of a television drama. It is a saga of boardroom clashes, tense hotel meetings and urgent messages on car phones. Who, they are wondering, should play the leading roles of Andrew Whitam Smith, Matthew Symonds and Glover, the paper's co-founders?



Lumley as Symonds? Corbett as Treford?

The ruddy-cheeked Whitam Smith would perhaps suit either Tim Piggin-Smith or John Stride, an urbane Glover could be played by Angus Deayton or Tom Courtenay. Ronnie Corbett could play *The Observer* editor Donald Treford, who features in the tale. Glover, however, is worried about the lack of love interest and suggests Joanna Lumley as Symonds. If that is stretching poetic licence too far, he says, Rik Mayall would do.



LIGHT FOR HEAT

Discussion of the monarchy requires rigour and respect

Our conference on the future of the Crown today has inspired fascination and scepticism in almost equal measure. For the hundreds who will be gathered at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London to discuss "The Monarchy, The Constitution and The People", there is evidently a need for such an event. Thousands more will watch highlights of the conference, a joint enterprise between *The Times* and the Charter 88 group, when it is broadcast on Channel 4 tonight. Yet there are also some who feel that a newspaper that supports constitutional monarchy should not be involved in such a forum at all. The subject, it is argued, should remain taboo.

It is true that mystique and the divinity that "doth hedge a king" have always been central attributes of Western monarchy. Louis XIV once remarked to the Duke of Orleans that "the day on which the people cast off the respect and veneration by which alone monarchy is upheld, they will see us only as their equals... and once this is accomplished the illusion will be over." Walter Bagehot, that over-quoted Victorian, thought that remoteness was the essence of the "dignified" part of the English constitution and that public scrutiny would be the monarchy's downfall. Daylight, he warned, should not be allowed to flood onto magic.

Yet daylight may now be to the monarchy's advantage. The Queen herself acknowledged in her Guildhall speech last year that "criticism is good for institutions that are part of public life". After the most distressing 12 months of her reign, that was a remarkable and prescient observation. The *annus horribilis* of the royal separations, the Windsor castle fire, and uproar in the Church generated intense heat but very little light — other than the flash of the photographer's flashbulb. Much of what masqueraded as debate on the role of the monarchy last year was punitive and shallow.

The royal family's private life may provide salacious entertainment, but is no basis upon which to discuss an institution that remains at the heart of national life. Similarly, the Queen's decision in February that she and the Prince of Wales should pay tax was judicious, but peripheral to the much-needed debate on the future of the Crown.

This conference seeks to take that debate seriously and place it in the context of an overall review of our constitutional arrangements. More interest has been shown in the special session on the royal prerogative than any other. That is appropriate at a time when the Scott enquiry is deliberating on ministers' use of Crown powers in the Matrix Churchill affair and the ratification of Maastricht is drawing to a conclusion.

The public must now be thoroughly mystified by the Crown powers which ministers have invoked or threatened to invoke to steer this treaty through the Commons. They have suggested that the Crown does not need parliamentary sanction to approve Maastricht; yet they also threatened to dissolve Parliament last November if the paving debate went against the government. A.V. Dicey's nebulous definition of the royal prerogative as "the residue of discretionary or arbitrary authority left in the hands of the Crown" is no longer enough; clarification is needed.

That is but one example of the constitutional challenge before us. So too we must debate the future of the monarchy in Europe and ask how European Union will affect Britain's fluid, evolutionary constitution. We should ask whether Church and monarchy would both be stronger if they broke their mystic links; and how the hereditary principle enshrined in the royal succession affects the way we live. An institution powerfully rooted in the nation's memory and emotions can only gain from such scrutiny; so let us begin.

PRESIDENTIAL PRESSURES

Mr Clinton must box himself out of his tight corner

It has been one of those indifferent weeks for President Clinton. There were the spats with the Nato allies and Russia over Bosnia and then, by the end of the week, the spats with his own foreign policy advisers. He managed to avert a revolt by House Democrats on Wednesday only to be confronted on Thursday by another, more serious one, in the Senate over his energy tax proposals. And then there was "Hairgate One".

Some small embarrassment seemed inevitable when it was revealed that two of Los Angeles airport's four runways had to be closed for nearly an hour because Mr Clinton had delayed his departure on Air Force One to have his hair cut by a celebrity barber. "Hairgate" has, however, grown to an extraordinary degree since then, proving that when arguing for austerity, it is careless to behave like Beau Brummel.

More serious than the concern with his personal toprity is the charge that Mr Clinton is prone to "the Squish factor", unable to make up his mind on any difficult issue. Some of this criticism, admittedly, comes from curious quarters. When Europe taxes the administration with indecision and splits over Bosnia, it had better look to the beam in its own eye first. Robert Dole, the Republican minority leader in the Senate, may sound impressively hawkish on Bosnia now, but only months ago he was defending President Bush's inaction.

Mr Clinton's Republican enemies in Congress have successfully painted the president as a typical old style liberal Democratic tax-and-spender. His own side is not helping. When the president pushes his economic package forward he looks increasingly liable to split the wings of his

party. All the House of Representatives and a third of the Senate face re-election next year, which puts his moderate and conservative supporters under conflicting pressures. They are tempted to jump ship and oppose a plan that contains \$247 billion in new taxes and just \$97 billion in spending cuts. Yet they know that Congressional rejection of the plan would be a devastating blow to Mr Clinton, and to the Democratic party, which, after 12 years of gridlock, has been entrusted with a monopoly on power.

The president, despite his love of "maximum flexibility", is beginning to run out of room for manoeuvre. If he starts making concessions to particular interest groups, everyone will join in and his economic package will be torn apart. If he reduces his proposed tax increases and deepens the spending cuts he will upset the Democrats' liberal wing. The "New Democrat" coalition he managed to assemble to win the election is looking more fragile than ever. Ross Perot, whose influence has if anything grown since he won 19 million votes last November, is denouncing the deficit reduction plan as a sham. The Democrat candidate looks likely to be defeated on June 5 in a Texas Senate by-election that is being portrayed as the first referendum on Mr Clinton's performance.

The president has boxed his way out of many a tight corner before. If he can get his package through the House next Thursday and the Senate thereafter he should have at least a sporting chance of enacting some of his health care reforms. If his economic plan — the heart of his legislative programme — is torn to shreds the spectre of President Carter, that other ineffective Democrat from the south, will be hovering all the nearer.

ERITREA'S NEW DAWN

This is a secession that need not be feared

Eritreans say that the Italians, in the half-century up to 1941, built their country; that the British, who took over in 1941, dismantled it; and that the Ethiopians destroyed it. Africa's longest war followed Ethiopia's legally dubious annexation in 1962, a war which pitted a nation of 3.5 million against the continent's largest army. On Monday, two years to the day after the collapse of the Mengistu dictatorship, Eritrea formally becomes Africa's 52nd state.

Many African governments view the event with foreboding. Eritrea is the first country to have broken the Organisation of African Unity's iron rule that the continent's arbitrarily drawn map must never be altered. Nerves jangle as they survey secessionist movements from Zaïre to Cameroon. In the Horn, the elders of once British Somaliland and Sudan's Christian-animist south has rekindled memories that under the Anglo-Egyptian condominium, southern Sudan was separately ruled; and in Ethiopia, the large Oromo population brims with revolt against the new mainly Tigrayan government.

Their anxieties are misplaced, and not merely because Eritrea's legal claim to merely because Eritrea's legal claim to nationhood is exceptionally strong. While the mismatch of peoples to frontiers is a problem to be reckoned with everywhere in Africa, closer observation reveals that the breakdown of civil order under brutal dictatorships is at the root of most of these revolts.

not the formal taboo against changing frontiers, but good neighbourly relations and respect for human rights.

On both counts Eritrea — which is roughly half Muslim, half Christian and comprises at least nine groups with distinct languages — has made a promising start. President Issaias Afewerki seems genuinely convinced that Eritrea's survival depends on peace in the Horn. He has guaranteed Ethiopian access to the Red Sea ports of Massawa and Assab and tried to mediate in other regional disputes. A former Marxist, he committed his Eritrean People's Liberation Front to multi-party democracy in 1987 and has promised to disband it as soon as "democratic institutions" — which would ban political parties based on ethnicity or religion — are in place.

Such promises are all too familiar, however, and no date has been set. Euphoria still prevails, there is minimal dissent, the few hundred political prisoners were wartime collaborators; the people's efforts, in this miserably poor but astonishingly well-run new nation, are concentrated on survival and rebuilding. But in a war-dislocated society of subsistence peasants, hardened fighters, wretched refugees from Sudan and well-heeled exiles home from the West, democracy will be a necessity, not a luxury, to sustain this unity. Eritrea had no friends in war and deserves generous friends, including Britain, in peace. But help should be conditioned on its leaders' respect for the

Information with access for all

From the Chief Executive and Secretary-General of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Sir, You identified the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) exercise, which supports EC subsidy payments to farmers, in terms of a 20th-century Domesday Book (leading article, May 14).

There is a strong case for a new Domesday survey for the 21st century. It is the right time to harness new technology so that data on land and property in our economy can be aggregated to help in the more efficient management of future policies for the benefit of everyone in our crowded islands.

However, we face a conflict of interest. Data-protection legislation is threatening to hamper our use of national data. We must have a proper regard for the privacy of personal information, but the current interpretation of data-protection needs is catching in its net economic information which, we would argue, is of value to the wider community and should be in the public domain. The IACS data is only one example. Council tax banding is another.

Ministers have given undertakings that the data assembled from these exercises will be used only for the explicit purposes for which it was obtained. The Department of the Environment will not allow access to the council tax banding information for use in other economic modelling work or even for use in a pilot scheme for a Domesday 2000 project, on which my institution is working with others. Of course, a researcher can obtain this information from printouts in local libraries.

If we are to get the full benefits of the information revolution, we need to reconsider quickly how we define personal information that needs protection and how we distinguish it from information that should be publicly available to help us better manage our society and economy.

The effort that has gone into IACS data collection and into council tax banding will produce a product that ought to be more widely available.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PATTISON,
Chief Executive and
Secretary-General,
The Royal Institution of
Chartered Surveyors,
12 Great George Street,
Parliament Square, SW1,
May 14.

Hardly PR

From Professor Earl Russell

Sir, You are not correct (report, May 19) in describing the supplementary vote, as recommended to Labour by the Plant committee, as a form of proportional representation. The system rests on a majority of votes within a single constituency, and is best described as "first past the post over hurdles".

Similarly, Mr Jerry Hayes, MP for Harlow, was wrong when, in the House of Commons yesterday, he said the Italians had voted for the "first past the post" system. Italians have voted to fill 25 per cent of their seats from party lists in proportion to the parties' national votes, very much in the manner of the German additional member system.

The Italians have voted for PR with stabilisers, and any serious electoral reformer would instantly prefer their system to that recommended by the Plant committee.

Yours faithfully,
EARL RUSSELL,
House of Lords,
May 19.

Church problems

From Lord Whaddon

Sir, Ann Widdecombe has recently told a rally of Anglicans opposed to the ordination of women that if Rome were to ordain women, it would be time to move to the Russian Orthodox Church.

We are to gather from this that the gender of priests is a dogmatic imperative, but that the provenance of the Holy Ghost is now an optional extra?

Was it not the interpretation of this issue (the *filioque* clause) in the Nicene Creed that was the main theological dispute which split the Orthodox Church from Rome?

Yours sincerely,
WHADDON,
House of Lords,
May 10.

Class of its own

From Mr Richard Bullock

Sir, It is no surprise (letter, May 18) that the late Robert Adley's lament for the steam engine should be published in large A4 format. Many believe that the greatest achievement in British steam was Sir Nigel Gresley's A4 Pacific locomotive.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BULLOCK,
Express Buildings,
29 Upper Parliament Street,
Nottingham.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed on 071 572 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Royalty, republicanism and reform

From the Chair of the Charter 88 Executive

Sir, Jonathan Clark ("In defence of the realm", May 14) asks this loaded question: "Is republicanism, in Charter 88's favourite phrase, an idea whose time has come?"

One cannot help but admire the elegance of language while deploring the implication.

The idea whose time has come is the need for a better balance between government and governed. *The Times* Monarchy Debate, which takes place on May 22, is set within this context, and we are delighted that Jonathan Clark will be there to express his views alongside monarchists, republicans and constitutional reformers.

Constitutional reform need not lead to a republic if people do not wish it. Many European monarchs swear allegiance to the same enshrined written constitution as their citizens, their armed forces and their government. The flaw in Britain's democracy is not the existence of the monarchy, but the centralised sovereignty, derived from our status as subjects not free citizens, that is vested in Westminster and Whitehall.

It is this flaw that Charter 88 seeks to redress.

Yours faithfully,
TIM MILLER,
Chair, Charter 88 Executive,
Exmouth House,
3-11 Pine Street, EC1,
May 14.

From Mrs Lindsay Jenkins

Sir, I was pleased to see that Jonathan Clark considers that the monarchy still has a place. What he seems not to have realised, however, is that to all intents and purposes the UK will be a subsidiary republic, probably within a few weeks.

The Treaty of European Union (Maastricht) creates a European citizenship. The Queen will become, like the rest of us, a European citizen. The highest institutions in the new Europe will be the European Court of Justice and the European Commission.

Presumably, therefore, the judges and the commissioners will take precedence over the Queen of the United Kingdom.

The draft constitution of the European Union, dated February this year, clearly states that "the law of the Union shall take precedence over the law of the Member States" (article 2, point 3).

Pirate's handle

From Mr Jules Kosky

Sir, I hope that I can help Miss Laura Hadfield and others (letters, May 11, 13, 14, 19) in their quest for Captain Hook's origins.

The son of Mr Israel Hands (Dr Blackburn's letter, May 13) was Captain Swarthy, who sailed his pirate ship around Coral Island. He met his fate on the murky waters of Black Lake, Surrey, where he was captured and strung up by the Llewelyn Davies boys in the summer of 1901. This epic adventure is recorded in the single copy extant of *The Boy Castaways of Black Lake Island*, held at Yale University.

Captain Hook was of a much more aristocratic lineage. He was an old Etonian, as J.M. Barrie told the First Hundred, the Eton College society, on July 7, 1927 (reported in full by *The Times* next day, two-and-a-half columns to the right of the leader page).

Seven years earlier, Barrie had written in *Peter and Wendy*: "Hook was not his true name. To reveal who he really was would even at this date set the country ablaze." In *Peter Pan* Hook goes overboard into the crocodile's jaws with a final cry of "fleeat Etona".

Peter insists that Hook was of royal blood, an unacknowledged half-brother of Rupert of Hentzau. Sir Anthony Hope Hawkins, the chronicler of Ruritania, was an old friend of Barrie. That at the first performance of *Peter Pan* he growled: "Oh, for an hour of Herod!", shows a historian's understanding of the Hook family sentiments.

I think Peter Pan would say to young Miss Hadfield: "Just like Wendy! It takes a girl to read a story properly and ask intelligent questions which no grown-up can answer."

Yours faithfully,
JULES KOSKY
(Honorary archivist, Museum and Archives Service),
Peter Pan Gallery,
The Hospitals for Sick Children,
Great Ormond Street, WC1,
May 19.

Tranche of Manche

From Mr Robert H. Foster

Sir, Bernard Levin's attack on the Channel tunnel (May 11) — his second in the past 18 months — again ignores the significant effect of the travel concessions given to founder shareholders of Eurotunnel.

I paid £3,500 in November 1987 for my shares, which allow me two free return journeys each year during the concession period to 2041. Assuming one cross-Channel return journey in winter and one in summer with a vehicle and four occupants, this will save about £450 per year from 1994 onwards.

I would need to invest £10,000 (at 7.5 per cent interest) to be left with that

So that is the end of parliamentary democracy in this country and of the Queen as our head of state.

Yours faithfully,
LINDSAY JENKINS,
2 Dryden Mansions,
Queen's Club Gardens, W14.

From Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker

Sir, Will the "personalities" whom you billed on May 18 as participating in your May 22 conference describe to those attending what experience they have had of the working of the monarchy, practical and not just presentational, in Britain and the Commonwealth?

Will they further identify what other country/society has progressed as well as Britain in the past three-and-a-half centuries under its free institutions — a constitutional monarchy, a non-political head of state with a political head of government, the two Houses of Parliament, the Church of England, and others?

Whom would they propose to be head of state if not a hereditary monarch? What ex-politician or representative of the "great and good" could win any majority without a substantial opposition?

I am, etc,
DOUGLAS DODDS-PARKER,
9 North Court,
Great Peter Street, SW1.

From Professor Emeritus Philip Rhodes

Sir, The problem of the monarchy is not the institution itself, nor even the members of the royal family. Rather it is the inheritance of titles, derived from and dependent on the monarch, in other families with the privileges that those bring. There is no place in the modern world for those "who are born great".

Titles, often ignominiously bought in the past, confer influence and power which is all too often unmerited. Those who "achieve greatness" are rightly to be honoured. Those who acquire it by being born in a particular bed should not be, just because of that chance.

Apart from the immediate royal family, hereditary titles should soon be abolished. For the royals the nonsensical sycophantic titles of "highness" and "majesty" should go too.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP RHODES,
1 Wakerley Court, Wakerley,
Oakham, Leicestershire.

From Mr John Leech

Sir, Captain Hook was certainly known as James Hook by the time he entered Balliol. We have it from J.M. Barrie that Hook "borrowed" from the (Balliol) library a number of books, all of them, oddly enough, poetry and mostly of the Lake school. These volumes may still be occasionally picked up at second-hand bookstalls with the name 'Jacobus Hook' inserted as the owner ("Captain Hook at Eton", Barrie's address to Eton College, July 1927, in *McConnachie and J.M.B., Peter Davies*, 1938).

That "second-hand" is surely significant.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN LEECH,
Dorner Cottage, 2 The Fairway,
Devizes, Wiltshire,
May 15.

From Mr Angus McIntyre

Sir, I regret that I cannot cast any light on Captain Hook's name prior to his unfortunate accident. In the interests of political correctness, however, I trust that your readers will remember always to describe the captain as being "differently appendaged".

Yours sincerely,
S.L.A. MCINTYRE,
47 Smith Street, SW3.

From Mr Peter Suddock

Sir, In response to the National Maritime Museum's appeal for a stuffed crocodile (May 10), we are arranging to lend them a cast of a recently deceased specimen from our collection, "large as life and twice as natural". The Hook-alarming tick with which it is being fitted for exhibition at Greenwich will need no winding letter (May 19). It is a digital croc.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SUDDOCK
(Chief Executive),
Dudley & West Midlands
Zoological Society,
2 The Broadway,
Dudley, West Midlands,
May 20.

amount after tax. Moreover the investment is inflation-proofed.

While there have been difficulties in the construction of the tunnel, and significant cost overruns, some of the excessive safety requirements of governments and other appointed bodies, I and many others — whether pro-British or pro-European — would have preferred to see Mr Levin applaud the tunnel, not utterly deride it and its British chairman.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT H. FOSTER,
Winterburn Grange,
Near Skipton, North Yorkshire.

The Dambusters 50 years on

From Mr Jack Arkinstall

Sir, Do articles like that by Roger Boyes ("Flood of bitterness", May 17), disparaging the effects of the Möhne and Eder dam raid of 1943, achieve anything except cause anger to those who survived, and grief to the relatives of those who died in these and similar raids? Some of us like to feel that our war efforts were not in vain.

I am sceptical of the German version of this raid, that "production of weapons was not interrupted even for a day". It is also reported that the Germans consider the raid was an atrocity. All war is an atrocity, Mr Boyes, as we who survived it know.

Yours sincerely,
JACK ARKINSTALL,
(Squadron Leader, RAF, retired),
99 Beach Road, Selsey,
Chichester, West Sussex,
May 17.

From Mr John A. Grimer

Sir, When working with the RAF missing research and enquiry teams in Germany in 1947 and 1948, locating, exhuming and identifying the corpses of RAF aircrews, I was appalled at the wanton and excessive destruction in most German cities — especially as I had, in part, been responsible for it.

But it ill behoves members of a nation which had perpetrated and permitted the camps and the Holocaust to regard the Dambusters crews as war criminals. At the time, theirs was a shining example that gave many of us the courage to continue. The country was fighting for its life and there was little else we could do.

True, Nazi Germany reaped the whirlwind; but let us never forget who it was that sowed the wind.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. GRIMER
(77 Squadron, Bomber Command, 1943-4),
High Windmill, Bay View Road,
East Looe, Cornwall,
May 17.

From Mr Stephen Lewis

Sir, Surely the point is that ordinary men, of outstanding courage, did their best for their families, for their squadron and for their country. They knowingly took a grave risk to fight the Nazi menace.

These airmen were of my parents' generation, but I believe we are still deeply indebted to them. Let's give them honour, not criticism.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN LEWIS,
34 Hale Court, Farnham, Surrey,
May 18.

Double bill for roads

From Mr Richard Boxer

Sir, Mr John MacGregor's suggestion that motorway charges will be introduced during this Parliament (report, May 11) has the hallmark of an "own goal" unless it is skillfully presented to road users.

I believe we would all feel that we have paid for the existing infrastructure once, through taxes. A charge on new infrastructure is probably acceptable, such as the new M25 Thames crossing at Dartford.

No doubt the government will argue that charges should be equal on all motorways, old and new. This would raise the fear, however, that the proper cost-benefit analysis for new motorways would be diluted and that the government would siphon off revenues for other activities.

If the government wants to reduce traffic on our motorways, it needs to look at the basic principle behind their use — are they strategic links between major conurbations or local distributors? The number of exits and access to our motorways, compared with, say, those in France, would suggest the latter.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BOXER,
Goldsands Farmhouse, Newchapel,
Lingfield, Surrey,
May 18.

Pyjama games

From Mr Richard Butler

Sir, I am an MCC member aged 39. I am a moderate person: I listen to U2 and Wagner, I drink best bitter and fine claret, I read Ruth Rendell and Homer and I mix with plumbers and peers of the realm.

Yesterday I went to Lord's, to see for myself the new Sunday coloured cricket league. I shall not be going again.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BUTLER,
27 Victoria Square, SW1,
May 17.

Beyond the call of duty

From Mr David S. Cooke

Sir, In my view the only person deserving of a medal after the FA Cup final this year was Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, for sitting through it all.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID S. COOKE,
Hollyoaks Cottage, Beech Way,
Blackmore End, Wheathampstead,
Hertfordshire,
May 21.

OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL J. D. FROST

Major General J. D. Frost, CB, DSO and Bar, MC, the commander of the 2nd Parachute Battalion, who held the bridge at Arnhem, died yesterday aged 90. He was born on New Year's Eve 1912.

"JOHNNIE" FROST carved his name in the annals of Anglo-American military history by reaching and holding the bridge at Arnhem until his ammunition ran out in September 1944, although surrounded by SS Panzers. His name was later immortalised by Cornelius Ryan's book and Richard Attenborough's film, *A Bridge Too Far* in which he was portrayed by Anthony Hopkins. Frost's epic fight at Arnhem, where his sterling qualities were tested to the full, was but the climax of his wartime service with the 2nd Parachute Battalion. He was a founder member of "2 Para", and his indomitable leadership as adjutant, company commander and then commanding officer, established his fighting traditions, which were so evident 40 years later in the battle for Goose Green during the Falklands War.

John Dutton Frost was born in Poona, the son of Brigadier F. D. Frost. He was educated at Wellington College, Monkton Combe School and Sandhurst before being commissioned into the Cameronians (The Scottish Rifles) in 1932. His early service was in Palestine, and in 1938 he was seconded to the Iraq Levies with whom he served until 1941. Feeling that the war was passing him by, he engineered his return to England. Before he left Iraq he was presented with a hunting horn by the Royal Exodist Hunt of which he had been master. That horn was to be heard at critical phases of his future battles as he rallied his men. Once home, he volunteered for the Special Air Service and was posted as Adjutant of the 2nd Parachute Battalion, which was just forming. Completing five instead of the recognised seven jumps in three days, he was given his wings and command of C Company.

Frost's first task as a parachute commander was to lead the raid on the German radar station at Brunel on the French coast 12 miles east of Le Havre on the night of February 27/28, 1942. British scientists needed the cacinotron from the heart of one of the latest German radar stations in order to devise counter-measures. Frost's C Company was to drop on Brunel and protect the radar specialist, Flight Sergeant E. W. F. Cox, and his Sapper team while they dismantled the radar and carried it back to waiting Royal Naval landing craft.

The Brunel raid was one of the few entirely successful second world war parachute operations, thanks to Frost's meticulous planning, training and inspiring leadership. His hunting horn was heard, for the first time in battle, as the Brunel garrison was over-run and captured or killed while the radar was being dismantled. His force escaped in the nick of time with the precious cacinotron stowed safely on board the landing craft as German tanks reached the cliffs above the beach. The MC was his reward.

When the battalion sailed for the Allied invasion of French North Africa in November that year as part of the 1st Airborne Division, the commanding officer fell ill and Frost was promoted to fill in. In the chaos of the initial race for Tunis, which the Allies lost, Frost's battalion was



Frost, above, after receiving the Victoria Cross for the Bruneval raid in 1942 and, far right, at Arnhem with Anthony Hopkins who portrayed him, during the filming of the 1977 film, *A Bridge Too Far*.

dropped near Pont Du Fahs with the task of destroying Axis aircraft on its airfield and on Dieppe and Oudna as well, the last being only 15 miles due south of Tunis where Axis forces were landing in strength. He was then to link up with British forces advancing on the city from the west.

Frost was faced almost at once with a double disaster: there were no aircraft to destroy on the airfields, and the British advance was checked at Medjed el Bab, 30 miles west of Oudna. Frost had to fight his way to them while the Germans made repeated attempts to encircle and destroy his battalion. By sheer dogged determination and tactical skill, he succeeded in a three-day running battle, but it cost the battalion almost half its fighting strength. Frost was understandably bitter about the waste of his battalion on this ill-conceived mission. It was little consolation to be told that his wild-goose chase had diverted considerable German strength at a critical juncture in the first Allied attempt to take Tunis.

In the subsequent fighting in Tunisia, the battalion took part in the fighting around Djebel Mansour in February, and in checking the German *Ochsenkopf* offensive through Sedjenane along the north coast in March. Frost's battalion repelled three successive attacks at Tamera by the German paratroopers of Battle Group Witzig: the first quite easily, the second with difficulty and the third after a desperate struggle in which they narrowly missed capturing the much decorated Colonel Witzig. In the fighting to re-take Sedjenane, Frost, sounding his hunting horn, led the decisive bayonet charge which obliterated the remnants of the Witzig Group. He received his first DSO for his battalion's part in the Tunisian Campaign.

During the early phases of the invasion of Sicily in July 1943, Frost's battalion was dropped by night with the rest of 1st Parachute Brigade on the Primosole bridge just north of Syracuse. Frost's task was to hold the high ground to the south. Again little went right: many of the American pilots lost their way; the parachute aircraft were shot at by Allied warships as they crossed the coast; and less than a fifth of the brigade landed anywhere near the



bridge. By dawn Frost had as few as a hundred men to fend off counter-attacks by paratroopers of the Schmalz Group. The battle lasted until the 8th Army's advance guard reached the bridge as dusk fell that evening.

Eisenhower vetoed further parachute operations until better trained air-crew were available. In consequence the 1st Airborne Division was landed at Taranto from Allied warships when Italy was invaded in October 1943. After dealing with the rear guards of the German 1st Parachute Division, which withdrew to Foggia, the division sailed home to England to prepare for the invasion of Normandy.

Many plans were made for using 1st Airborne Division in France and Belgium during the summer of 1944, but nothing came of any of them until the Arnhem operation, which began on September 17.

The plan, code-named Market Garden, was to take advantage of the chaotic and headlong German retreat in the west by concentrating the Allied attack in a narrow surprise thrust to capture the Ruhr and race on east to Berlin before the Russians. Montgomery, the operation's principal architect and advocate, planned to drop a "carpet of airborne forces" behind the German lines along a 60-mile corridor from the Belgian border to Arnhem on the far side of the Rhine. The paratroopers were to seize and hold five vital bridges across rivers and canals over which the ground forces of the Second British Army would sweep into Germany.

Frost's 2nd Parachute Battalion was given the task of advancing as rapidly as possible along the north bank of the Lower Rhine to capture and hold the railway and road bridges in Arnhem some eight miles away from its dropping zone. There were said to be only lightly armed

training and reserve units in the area. So confident was Frost of success that he ordered his batman to load his golf clubs and shot gun in his follow-up baggage.

Again little went right: the 9th and 10th SS Panzer Divisions were re-fitting in the area, and, although taken by surprise, were soon opposing the British advance into Arnhem. Opposition grew in intensity and the Germans succeeded in blowing the railway bridge just as Frost's men were approaching it. It then took until dusk for the battalion to fight its way to the northern end of the road bridge, but all attempts to cross it were driven back. For the next three nights and two days Frost held the buildings around the north end of the bridge against a succession of determined German tanks and infantry attacks while the rest of the division tried to reach him. During the third night he was badly wounded by a mortar bomb. Soon afterwards, the Germans managed to set on fire the upper floors of the building in the cellars of which the severely wounded were being sheltered. Fearing that they would be engulfed in the flames, he finally agreed to surrender. The Bar to his DSO recognised his and his men's stoical endurance, and the Dutch later named the re-built bridge after him.

In the years after the battle Frost maintained that, despite the outcome and the shortcomings in the planning of the operation, the effort at Arnhem had been worthwhile, saying that if it had been successful it would have ended the war in 1944. After the war Frost's career was exceptional: commanding the re-formed 2nd Parachute Battalion in Palestine in 1946; student at the Staff College in 1947; staff officer in Lowland District, 1948-49, at the Senior Officers School, 1949-52, and

in 17th Gurkha Division's Headquarters in Malaya during the anti-terrorist campaign, 1952-55; 57th Commandant of Netheravon, 1955-57; Commander of the 44th Parachute Brigade (TA), 1958-61 and of Lowland District, 1961-64; and finally General Officer Commanding British Troops, Malta and Libya, 1964-66.

In 1984, 40 years after the Arnhem battle, Frost returned to the re-built bridge across the Rhine which now bears his name to meet his German adversary in the battle, Brigadier-General Heinz Harmel, the commander of the 10th Waffen-SS Panzer Division. Without bitterness, the two old soldiers shook hands under the bridge and chatted about their experiences.

Johnnie Frost will be remembered as a great leader of parachute troops, who had deep reserves of courage and willpower. He inspired his officers and men, who had implicit faith in his personal integrity and confidence in his military judgement. He was surprisingly modest and discrete for a man with his strength of character; indeed, he was quite shy. Like all true Scots, he liked his "Wee Dram", and as he grew older tended towards intransigence. He crossed swords with his colleagues of the Diplomatic Service in the Mediterranean, which was perhaps why he was not given further military employment. He retired in 1967 and became a successful farmer in Hampshire.

In his retirement he wrote three books: *A Drop Too Many* about Arnhem; *Two Para - Falklands*, recounting his old battalion's feats in the South Atlantic Campaign of 1982; and *Nearly There*, his own autobiography.

He married Jean MacGregor Lyle in 1947. They had a son and a daughter. His family survive him.

ELIZABETH MONTGOMERY

Elizabeth Montgomery, theatrical designer, died in Barnes on May 15 aged 91. She was born on February 15, 1902.

ELIZABETH Montgomery was at the cutting edge of costume and set design in the London theatre during the 1930s and 1940s. With her two old friends from art school, the sisters Sophie and Margaret "Percy" Harris, she founded the enormously influential Motley company.

Their designs were striking but simple and encouraged freedom of movement for the actors, quicker scene changes and some experimental lighting. Out went the opulent, cluttered Edwardian sets, and in came strong, bold designs, rich fabrics, and daring colour schemes. Arguably the most creative of the three, Montgomery had faultless taste and the ability to use costume as an integral part of character.

Their studio in St Martin's Lane, which had once been a nightclub, was also a refuge and watering hole for young actors. John Gielgud borrowed it for parties, Laurence Olivier, Peggy Ashcroft and Alec Guinness were frequent visitors. Theatrical memoirs of the period are littered with references to the "Motleys" as they were always known.

The girls entertained no desire to go on stage themselves, however, and their innate modesty was a source of some amusement within the profession. Gielgud recalled visiting them in the early 1930s. "They were three silent and retiring young women in those days, and it was some time before I could get them to speak about themselves in their gentle, hesitating voices. They have since told me that my sudden and unexpected arrivals used to throw them all into paroxysms of shyness."

The daughter of a theology lecturer, Elizabeth Montgomery was born in Oxfordshire, but spent much of her early life in Cambridge. She was a lonely child who showed an early aptitude for drawing. When she was 16 her family moved to London, and Montgomery began to sell her illustrations to *Tatler* and *The Illustrated London News*.

At 18 she attended a local art school, the Chelsea Illustrators, where she met her two future partners. The three girls quickly became inseparable and determined to become professional costumiers. They sketched the actors at the Old Vic and Sadlers Wells and were particular admirers of the young Gielgud.

When Gielgud was given his first chance of directing, a production of *Romeo and Juliet* for the Oxford University Dramatic Society in 1932, the girls approached him with their sketches. Montgomery had already designed costumes for Terence Gray's production of the play in Cambridge. Gielgud liked her work and hired them.

This was the start of a long collaboration. George Devine, the president of OUDS, was another who was impressed by their professionalism and when he went down from Oxford a few months later to take up acting professionally, he became their business manager and launched them as stage-designers.

The operation expanded and the Motleys eventually needed to employ a staff of 60. Gielgud would have no-one else designing for him at the time and employed them for his production of *Richard of Bordeaux* in 1933 at the New Theatre. He then consulted with them on his *Hamlet*, which was to open at the New in 1934. He was particularly anxious to avoid looking, as Hamlet often did, like an "overgrown Peter Pan".

Inspired by the work of Lucas Cranach, a contemporary of Dürer's, the Motleys produced canvas dresses, trimmed with silk and velvet, in rich autumnal colours which were actually patterned on with paint spray. The costumes were cheap to make but looked magnificent and authentic, with a rich, worn look, unlike anything the audience had seen before. The actors wore heavy-looking chains around the neck, which were actually made of rubber and feather-light.

Laurence Olivier called them "magical" designers and, having first met them during a production of *Queen of Scots* in 1934, used them for his *Macbeth* (1937) and his 1938 production of *Romeo and Juliet* (1940) on Broadway.

This last engagement took Montgomery and Percy Harris to America. (Sophie was by now married to Devine) and the two girls decided to stay on there throughout the war, designing in Hollywood, Canada and New York. After the war Harris returned to England, while Montgomery settled in New York with her new husband, the author Patrick Wilmot, whom she married in 1946. Her career continued to flourish as she worked on award-winning Broadway musicals *South Pacific*, *Okla-homa!*, *Paint Your Wagon* and *Can Can*, as well as making costumes for several of Agnes de Mille ballets.

In 1966 she returned to London and collaborated again with Percy Harris, although she designed costumes independently for Peter Ustinov's *The Unknown Soldier* and *His Wife* in 1973. Later in the 1970s she began to concentrate on portraiture. Her wide circle had always supplied a ready group of sitters, and she did some revealing studies of John Gielgud, Peggy Ashcroft and Edith Evans. While not as visible about town as she once was, she continued to entertain her many friends, including Percy Harris, at home.

Her husband died in 1967. They had one son.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BALEARICS

MALLORCA - Superb, Aug. 3, 2nd floor, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 terraces, 2 balconies, 2 parking spaces, 2 garages, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 golf courses, 2 restaurants, 2 bars, 2 clubs, 2 shops, 2 schools, 2 hospitals, 2 police stations, 2 fire stations, 2 post offices, 2 banks, 2 libraries, 2 museums, 2 galleries, 2 theatres, 2 cinemas, 2 concert halls, 2 sports grounds, 2 parks, 2 gardens, 2 forests, 2 mountains, 2 rivers, 2 lakes, 2 seas, 2 oceans, 2 planets, 2 galaxies, 2 universes, 2 everything.

CORNWALL & DEVON

IN CORNWALL, Church Cottage in Looe, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 terraces, 2 balconies, 2 parking spaces, 2 garages, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 golf courses, 2 restaurants, 2 bars, 2 clubs, 2 shops, 2 schools, 2 hospitals, 2 police stations, 2 fire stations, 2 post offices, 2 banks, 2 libraries, 2 museums, 2 galleries, 2 theatres, 2 cinemas, 2 concert halls, 2 sports grounds, 2 parks, 2 gardens, 2 forests, 2 mountains, 2 rivers, 2 lakes, 2 seas, 2 oceans, 2 planets, 2 galaxies, 2 universes, 2 everything.

FLATS TO LET

REMARKABLE 2 bed flat in London, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 terraces, 2 balconies, 2 parking spaces, 2 garages, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 golf courses, 2 restaurants, 2 bars, 2 clubs, 2 shops, 2 schools, 2 hospitals, 2 police stations, 2 fire stations, 2 post offices, 2 banks, 2 libraries, 2 museums, 2 galleries, 2 theatres, 2 cinemas, 2 concert halls, 2 sports grounds, 2 parks, 2 gardens, 2 forests, 2 mountains, 2 rivers, 2 lakes, 2 seas, 2 oceans, 2 planets, 2 galaxies, 2 universes, 2 everything.

FLATSHARE

MATTHEWS Charlotte, 2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 terraces, 2 balconies, 2 parking spaces, 2 garages, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 golf courses, 2 restaurants, 2 bars, 2 clubs, 2 shops, 2 schools, 2 hospitals, 2 police stations, 2 fire stations, 2 post offices, 2 banks, 2 libraries, 2 museums, 2 galleries, 2 theatres, 2 cinemas, 2 concert halls, 2 sports grounds, 2 parks, 2 gardens, 2 forests, 2 mountains, 2 rivers, 2 lakes, 2 seas, 2 oceans, 2 planets, 2 galaxies, 2 universes, 2 everything.

FOR SALE

DAVID Shepherd, 2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 terraces, 2 balconies, 2 parking spaces, 2 garages, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 golf courses, 2 restaurants, 2 bars, 2 clubs, 2 shops, 2 schools, 2 hospitals, 2 police stations, 2 fire stations, 2 post offices, 2 banks, 2 libraries, 2 museums, 2 galleries, 2 theatres, 2 cinemas, 2 concert halls, 2 sports grounds, 2 parks, 2 gardens, 2 forests, 2 mountains, 2 rivers, 2 lakes, 2 seas, 2 oceans, 2 planets, 2 galaxies, 2 universes, 2 everything.

GIFTS

A BIRTHDAY Newspaper, 2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 terraces, 2 balconies, 2 parking spaces, 2 garages, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 golf courses, 2 restaurants, 2 bars, 2 clubs, 2 shops, 2 schools, 2 hospitals, 2 police stations, 2 fire stations, 2 post offices, 2 banks, 2 libraries, 2 museums, 2 galleries, 2 theatres, 2 cinemas, 2 concert halls, 2 sports grounds, 2 parks, 2 gardens, 2 forests, 2 mountains, 2 rivers, 2 lakes, 2 seas, 2 oceans, 2 planets, 2 galaxies, 2 universes, 2 everything.

RENTALS

SWY CHURCH GATE, 2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 terraces, 2 balconies, 2 parking spaces, 2 garages, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 golf courses, 2 restaurants, 2 bars, 2 clubs, 2 shops, 2 schools, 2 hospitals, 2 police stations, 2 fire stations, 2 post offices, 2 banks, 2 libraries, 2 museums, 2 galleries, 2 theatres, 2 cinemas, 2 concert halls, 2 sports grounds, 2 parks, 2 gardens, 2 forests, 2 mountains, 2 rivers, 2 lakes, 2 seas, 2 oceans, 2 planets, 2 galaxies, 2 universes, 2 everything.

SERVICES

WHEN in London rent a video, TV or car, 2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 terraces, 2 balconies, 2 parking spaces, 2 garages, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 golf courses, 2 restaurants, 2 bars, 2 clubs, 2 shops, 2 schools, 2 hospitals, 2 police stations, 2 fire stations, 2 post offices, 2 banks, 2 libraries, 2 museums, 2 galleries, 2 theatres, 2 cinemas, 2 concert halls, 2 sports grounds, 2 parks, 2 gardens, 2 forests, 2 mountains, 2 rivers, 2 lakes, 2 seas, 2 oceans, 2 planets, 2 galaxies, 2 universes, 2 everything.

TICKETS FOR SALE

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WANTED

ALL GOODCHILD Artists, 2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 terraces, 2 balconies, 2 parking spaces, 2 garages, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 golf courses, 2 restaurants, 2 bars, 2 clubs, 2 shops, 2 schools, 2 hospitals, 2 police stations, 2 fire stations, 2 post offices, 2 banks, 2 libraries, 2 museums, 2 galleries, 2 theatres, 2 cinemas, 2 concert halls, 2 sports grounds, 2 parks, 2 gardens, 2 forests, 2 mountains, 2 rivers, 2 lakes, 2 seas, 2 oceans, 2 planets, 2 galaxies, 2 universes, 2 everything.

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MARV JOHNSON

Marv Johnson, the baritone credited with creating the Motown sound with Berry Gordy Jr. died on May 16 after suffering a stroke at a concert in South Carolina aged 54. He was born in Detroit, Michigan, on October 15, 1938.

THE soul singer Marv Johnson was not actually signed to Tamla Motown until 1965 when his career on the United Artists label had begun to flag. But by this time he had been the recipient of the legendary Berry Gordy Jr's production talents for seven years.

Johnson had been fronting his own band in Detroit since he was 13 and was spotted by Gordy playing the piano at the local 3-D Record Mart. Gordy



Johnson was already producing the young Jackie Wilson and was looking for new talent. He produced Johnson's first recording, "Baby-O", for the

local Kudo label in 1958.

In 1959 Gordy secured a loan of \$800 in order to launch a new label - Tamla Motown. The company made its debut with Johnson's single, "Come to Me". No 30 in the charts - when it was licensed to United Artists.

However, it heralded the arrival of a distinctly new sound. Gordy paired Johnson's gospel-trained voice with women singing thin and reedy "bop shoo bops" in the background, while a bass singer hummed along the bottom. The result was an appealing new black sound that went down equally well with white listeners.

The record initiated a series of soul hits for Johnson: "You Got What It Takes" (1959), "I

Love the Way You Love" and "Move Two Mountains" (1960). Johnson stayed with United Artists while Gordy continued to produce him.

In 1965 Johnson signed on fully with the Motown stable but by this time Gordy was devoting his time to a new generation of stars. The Supremes, the Four Tops and Stevie Wonder. Johnson scored a couple more hits including "I Miss You Baby" (1966) and "I'll Pick a Rose for My Rose" (1968), a perennial favourite in Britain, but he never received the kind of lavish promotion that Gordy's new signings enjoyed.

When Johnson's record-making days were over, in the early 1970s, he helped out in Motown's accounts department.

ON THIS DAY

May 22 1924

COVENT GARDEN OPERA

"DER ROSENKAVALLER"

Principals

Herr Highmeyer's Major Domo

Baron Ochs of Lorchheim

Oscar

Von Fintal

Sophie von Fintal

Conductor - Bruno Walter

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1036.

Shares leap as Brixton unveils £100m issue

■ Despite the severe downturn in the South East, Brixton Estate intends to invest most of the new funds in the western Home Counties, anticipating a return to prosperity

By CARL MORTISHED

SHARES in Brixton Estate leapt 6 per cent on the announcement of a £100 million rights issue to raise funds for expansion. The company, which specialises in industrial property in the South East, is issuing 66.2 million ordinary shares on a two-for-five basis at 155p, a 21 per cent discount to the closing price of 196p on Thursday.

Expectations that the funds will reduce the company's gearing from 114 per cent to about 60 per cent helped boost the shares 11p to 206p, as did a strong property share market, which is anticipating a return to growth in asset values.

The issue surprised the market, which had been expecting a fundraising at the announcement of Brixton's results in April, when the company revealed a net asset value fall of 19 per cent to 183p, after a 10 per cent decline in its UK property portfolio.

Douglas Gardner, managing director, said: "We see the South East as the powerhouse of the country. All the money will go into property and we intend to concentrate on the western half of the Home Counties."

He said that industrial property was a preference, particularly in the western

Home Counties where planning restrictions were tighter, but the company would also contemplate buying offices. He intends to invest at initial yields at least equal to the long-term cost of borrowing, about 9.5 per cent.

Clerical Medical & General Life and Royal Insurance Asset Management, which together own 37 per cent of the company, will take up their rights while the balance is being underwritten by Schroder, the merchant bank. The rights shares will not qualify for the final dividend of 5.35p but will increase the cost of next year's payout by £5.5 million if the company maintains the dividend at 8.35p for the year.

Brixton has 60 per cent of its portfolio in factories and warehouses and owns about 600,000 sq ft of land with planning permission. However, the lack of demand from occupiers means that most of the new funds will be allocated to buying let property rather than new development. About 600,000 sq ft, or 7.5 per cent, of the portfolio is looking for tenants, but the company has let 180,000 sq ft since the beginning of the year. Rental income in 1992 was £55 million, generating profits of £28.5 million, up 4 per cent on the previous year.



Consoling pint: David Thompson, reporting static profits, accused his firm's biggest rival of waging price war

Wolves attacks Bass

DAVID Thompson, managing director of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, accused Bass, Britain's biggest brewer, of waging an increasingly bitter price war (Martin Waller writes). Wolves & Dudley reported static interim profits.

"The Midlands and the North West have become the battleground for market share between the national brewers," Mr Thompson said. Bass had been discounting heavily, and "have made it plain that they aren't going to lose market share," he added.

Wolves & Dudley made pre-tax profits of £16.7 million in the six months to March 28, compared with £16.5 million last time, but the improvement resulted from higher property and investment sales. If these are stripped out, the figure was £16 million (£16.1 million).

The interim dividend is being increased from 4.3p to 4.7p, a "sustainable increase", Mr Thompson said. The shares advanced 7p to 530p.

Regulators brought into disclosure row

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

POWERGEN, the electricity generator, has joined in the continuing row over the unauthorised release of price-sensitive information to selected stockbrokers by claiming that some of it comes from the various regulators who act as industry watchdogs.

Michael Reidy, director of corporate affairs at PowerGen, said that it was a matter of increasing concern, and the losers were ordinary shareholders, who were not party to conversations between regulators and brokers.

His views were echoed by the head of one of the City's biggest investing institutions. Paul Myers, chairman of Gartmore and a non-executive director of PowerGen, said that all regulators should ensure price-sensitive statements go to a broad audience, and not to a limited one.

Mr Myers, an outspoken critic of what he sees as

widespread insider trading in the City, added: "I think that the point being made here is that the regulators' views can frequently have considerable price sensitivity, and they need to be aware of that."

The industry regulators meet brokers' analysts fairly frequently for formal or informal briefings, and their views are assiduously courted by the stock market, which often believes they provide a pointer to future policy.

"I believe both regulator and regulatee have a responsibility to avoid informal briefings which might impact the share price," Mr Reidy yesterday told a conference on working with the regulator.

"This is all the more important in an area of judgmental regulation — in other words where judgments depend on discretion by both sides, not hard and fast rules." Small

shareholders in particular might not find it easy to factor regulatory issues into their decisions and might therefore be "surprised, confused and disadvantaged" by share price fluctuations they failed to understand, he added.

Mr Reidy is a former civil servant at the energy department, where he worked on the regulatory framework for the gas industry. His criticism illustrates that regulators face the same problems as companies trying to avoid shocks to the market.

Last year, Ian Byatt, director-general of water services, was criticised for issuing a bald but price-sensitive statement about 1993-4 price limits that caused confusion on the stock market. He responded by inviting water industry analysts to an in-depth briefing to avoid future shocks. However, such initiatives could fall foul of the new mood.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

NM Financial fined for breach of Lautro rules

NM Financial Management has been fined £45,000 and ordered to pay costs by the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) after it admitted rule breaches between January 1991 and March 1992.

The company admitted that it appointed people as company representatives without obtaining sufficient references to enable it to judge that they were fit and proper to sell investments. It also failed to make sure that "fact find" forms were completed properly by its agents. These forms should be completed by salesmen to give details of the financial background of investors so that the company can see that the right product has been sold. Lautro acknowledges that the company has co-operated fully and has improved its vetting procedures to the required standard.

Lex raises \$147m

LEX Service, the car and truck retailing and leasing group, has raised \$146.6 million with the sale of 4.6 million shares in Arrow Electronics, of the US. The company expects to reinvest the funds in the automotive sector. The shares were sold to a group of underwriters led by Goldman Sachs, Donaldson Lufkin Jenrette and Morgan Stanley, at \$32.50 each. The underwriters also have a 30-day option to buy up to 500,000 more Arrow Electronics shares at the offering price. Lex said that if that option were exercised in full, it would no longer retain any interest. Lex shares fell 4p to 338p.

Jobs to go at Bridon

A TOTAL of 65 jobs are to go at Bridon, the UK's leading ropemaker, as part of a restructuring of its European wire and wire-rope operations. The Bridon Fishing ropery in Beverley, Humberside, will close, with the loss of 51 jobs, and there will be 14 redundancies when the Gateshead service centre of Bridon Ropes closes. The present separate businesses of Fox Wire, Johnson & Nephew (Ambergate), and NV Bridon Ropes SA will operate as sites of Bridon Ropes Ltd. Brian Clayton, chief executive, said the group hoped to save £1 million a year in overheads through the changes.

Albion shares surge

SHARES in Albion, the tailored clothing group based in Belfast, jumped 21p to 131p yesterday, as it reported a 50 per cent leap in half-time taxable profits to £507,940 (£338,378). Turnover to end-March rose from £7.4 million to £9.1 million, and the interim dividend firmed from 1.2p to 1.6p. Albion said the improvement was propelled by better market share and performance from international operations. However, Albion said the high street stays highly competitive as low-cost sources of supply become available increasingly to western Europe.

Owen & Robinson dive

SHARES in Owen & Robinson, the jewellery and sports shoe retailer, crashed from 9p to 3p, after the announcement of a proposed capital reorganisation. Credit Lyonnais Laing is to lead a placing and open offer to raise £2 million. There was a pre-tax loss of £2.5 million (£2.9 million) in the year to end-January. There is no dividend (0.15p). Alan Gaynor, right, was appointed chief executive and Mike Smith finance director.



Ferraris calls for cash

FERRARIS Group, the USM-listed medical engineering business, has announced a two-for-three rights issue at 55p to raise £1.95 million and interim taxable profits up 225 per cent to £251,000. Ferraris is now seeking a full listing. About the money raised will pay for the purchase of the freehold of the main premises at Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, and the minority interest in Ferraris Medical Inc, the company's US distributor. The interim dividend is 0.75p (nil).

Electricity jobs cut

By OUR DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

EAST Midlands Electricity, one of the 12 privatised distributors in England and Wales that are about to go into their financial reporting season, is cutting 300 jobs over the next year as part of an efficiency drive which will reduce those working in the core business to 4,500.

The company has already trimmed a similar number of jobs off the electricity side since privatisation in December 1989. Norman Askew, the managing director, said it was intended that the latest job losses would be achieved by natural wastage. East Midlands is also trimming the number of board members.

Keith Jackson is taking early retirement and Philip Champ, while continuing in charge of generation and overseas operations, loses his place on the board.

Mr Askew said the forthcoming level of activity in generation, now the company's Corby Power scheme is close to coming on stream, was not sufficient to justify a board post. East Midlands will save £10 million a year from the job losses and by the consolidation of the existing operational structure of 13 districts into seven business units, but the changes will cost an estimated £13 million to implement over the next 18 months.

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Company Year-End Financial Highlights

(as at 31st March (unaudited))

	1993	1992
Net Asset Value		
Per Share	198p	164p*
Ordinary Shareholders' Funds	\$617m	\$512m
Dividend Per Share	4.5p	4.5p*

*Restated to reflect the subdivision of each 25p ordinary share into 5 ordinary shares of 5p each.

To The Secretary, The British Investment Trust PLC, Donaldson House, 9 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 4UD.

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Investor protest at Spring Ram

By OUR CITY STAFF

WORRIED small shareholders of Spring Ram, the bathroom and kitchen manufacturer, showed their disapproval of the company's recent performance. About 110 investors were at the annual meeting in Leeds and some voted against a motion to reappoint Arthur Andersen as the company's auditor.

However, Bill Rooney, the chairman, announced that 105 million proxy votes had been received in favour of the motion, and just 8 million against.

In March, Spring Ram reported a £10 million drop in pre-tax profits, to £26.2 million. It was the first fall in profitability since the company's stock market baptism in 1983.

Troubles began last year, when accounting irregularities were discovered at the Batterley Bathrooms subsidiary. That undermined City confidence, which was further

affected by the profits fall. Mr Rooney said yesterday that after the irregularities were discovered, a company-wide review of procedures was undertaken.

"All systems have been strengthened and it cannot happen again," he said. Spring Ram had invested heavily in recent years in plant and machinery, and in business areas that would be of benefit in the future.

Trading conditions in the early months of the current year remained difficult, but the board believed prospects were better than for 1992. A shortlist had been drawn up in the search for a new finance director to replace Stuart Greenwood, who announced his resignation after the accounting controversy.

Spring Ram has bought a 30-acre site next to Bradford's Euroway industrial estate. It wants to build a new tile factory.

Tighter controls urged for advisers

Financial advisers should be regulated more strictly, according to a newly-published independent report on the proposed Personal Investment Authority (PIA). But it warns that over-protection of investors may do more harm than good.

The report, by Sir Brian Jenkins, former Lord Mayor of London, recommends "enhancements" to the regulatory regime for personal investment business.

The number of inspection visits should be stepped up to twice a year for high-risk advisers and the PIA should categorise its members according to risk to investors.

Richards loss

Richards, the carpets-to-knitwear group based in Scotland, incurred pre-tax losses of £326,000 in the half-year to end-March (£1.9 million loss). At the operating level, losses deepened to £349,000, against £76,000. The dividend is maintained at 1.07p.

Bid extended

The all-share bid by Kingstream Resources of Australia for Plateau Mining attracted acceptances totalling 9.55 per cent of Plateau's capital by yesterday's first closing date. The offer has been extended to May 27.

DAKS in black

DAKS Simpson, the fashion and sportswear retailer, made a pre-tax profit of £1.4 million (£25,000 loss) in the year to end-January.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Spurs shoot-out
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Business Focus — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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For further information on the LGRF, contact Fiona Maguire at ULCS, 50 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PG. Telephone 071 363 2805. Graduates' phone 0800 252183 for further details.

STOCK MARKET

Browning Corp.	28%	28%	Low Priced Pk	11%	11%	Southwestern Bell	15%	15%
Burlington Nthn	55	55%	Intl Paper	65%	65%	Spritz Corp	31%	31%
CBS	235%	235%	James River Va	22	21%	Stanley Works	46	46%
CNA Financial	97%	92%	Johnson & Johnson	45%	45%	Sun Company	34%	34%

Campbell Soup	41 1/4	41 1/4	Kerr-McGee	51 1/4	51 1/4	Synco Corp	18 1/4	18 1/4
Chm Pacific	16 1/4	16 1/4	Kimberly-Clark	50 1/4	50 1/4	Systo Corp	25 1/4	25 1/4
Citi Cities ABC	53 1/4	53 1/4	Knight-Ridder	55 1/4	55 1/4	TRW Inc	67 1/4	67 1/4
Coil Holdings	35 1/4	35 1/4	Life (GRH)	51 1/4	51 1/4	Thomson Corp	12 1/4	12 1/4

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Cash - na disputes

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WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY MAY 22 1993

Edited by Lindsay Cook

Disgrace in the high street

COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

The Financial Services Act has highlighted one feature of the investment market place: that big high street names cannot necessarily be trusted to get it right. Investors put so much trust in the expertise, integrity and all-round honesty of household name companies, established in the last century, which appear on their screens every night.

Two Office of Fair Trading reports pointed out last year that some of that trust is ill-founded, and this week we had a further demonstration of the point.

National Westminster Bank has been stopped from carrying out pensions transfer business through its independent financial adviser arm by the Securities and Investments Board.

Until the beginning of the year, NatWest was the only one of the Big Four to offer a totally independent service. The bank is now tied to its own life company, NatWest Life, and NatWest branches only sell the products of the new company.

It was a disappointment to see

such a stout defender of independent financial advice decide to limit itself to the products of one life company. To hear now that it cannot offer adequate counselling on pension transfers is little more than a disgrace.

The bank says it intends to return to the pension transfer market and that only a few hundred customers are affected. The SIB's intervention comes after much scrutiny by the life assurance and unit trust regulator of pension transfers. Too many people have been tempted out of good company schemes into personal pensions by agents and brokers who promote anxiety about the safety of company pensions in the wake of the Robert Maxwell scandal.

NatWest is not the first high street bank to withdraw from the pension transfer business. Barclays Life and Midland Life have also given up in the past few weeks. It will be

interesting to see who else follows. Since personal pensions were launched in 1988, a great many people have been persuaded of their merits by salesmen, even when they were already in perfectly good pension schemes. Too often, the benefits of the pension plan are sold strongly and the merits of the existing scheme ignored.

The salesman forgets to mention that most employees receive a handsome contribution to their occupational scheme from the company, but that few will pay into a personal pension for an employee who opts

out of the company scheme. The occupational scheme may also offer life cover of up to four times annual salary and permanent health insurance as well. These can be expensive to replace.

Investors should make sure they are informed, but they rely on the expertise of salesmen and in many cases look to the nameplate to give them security. An insurance company established more than 100 years ago would not do anything wrong, they argue, little realising that the person in front of them is a johnny-come-lately tied agent, who

is more concerned with his weekly or monthly earnings than the integrity of the firm on his business card. Employers can also be criticised for not selling their occupational schemes as strongly as they should, but then they do not earn commission for each person joining the scheme. They have to pay out more.

Taking notice

At least one building society appears to listen to its customers occasionally. Or perhaps the Halifax looks down the high street at its closest rival, Abbey National and spots a marketing opportunity.

Since January, the Abbey, which converted into a bank four years ago, has required a full working week's notice for orders of traveller's cheques and foreign currency. From June, the Halifax, the largest build-

ing society, will offer a next day service for traveller's cheques and currency. Customers who order before 11.30 am will be able to collect the next day from 12.30 pm. Customers will not have to visit the branch either, as a telephone ordering service is being offered.

Commenting on the improved service — previously the society needed a week to get the cash — Jim Birrell, its chief executive, said that customers had specifically asked for faster delivery and telephone ordering. It is odd that the Abbey has such different customers that it felt impelled to slow things down. Last year it offered a next day service.

Last month, when Weekend Money reported on the reduction in service, Abbey said it was reviewing its policy. It will be interesting to see if a little healthy competition will spur it into action.

Holiday spending, after all, is expected to be a high priority for families who have done without a proper break to meet mortgage payments, or when job uncertainty dominated their lives.

Cash-machine withdrawal disputes come to High Court

By LIZ DOLAN

THE battle to get the security, or otherwise, of cash withdrawal machines tested by the courts moved a step further this week when a hearing started in the High Court.

The hearing has been instigated by Denis Whalley, a Liverpool solicitor currently acting for nine people involved in five separate cases of disputed withdrawals from bank and building society cash dispensers. Mr Whalley is asking the High Court to allow the five disputes to be heard as one.

In addition, the solicitor wants people involved in similar disputes to be given the opportunity to combine their cases with that of his clients. He is asking that all banks and building societies be forced to alert every customer to the existence of his campaign. He says this can be done at minimum cost by including the information in monthly statement mailings.

The banks argue that combining every case is a waste of time, and would allow rivals to gain commercially sensitive knowledge, Mr Whalley says. A spokesman for the APACS, the organisation that oversees the banks' payment clearing services, said: "The main trouble here is that these are all very different cases, which will be argued from all sorts of different angles. If they are all rolled into one, it is difficult to see what you would expect to come out of it."

Mr Whalley cites a large number of examples of banks accusing account holders and their families of fraud, or memory failure, rather than accepting that their own systems have been at fault. One woman was actually convicted of stealing money from her disabled father's Midland Bank account via a cash machine six months before the bank admitted that it had given another customer the same account number as that of her father.

In most instances, customers are in no position to prove their innocence beyond doubt. A lucky few are able to produce firm evidence. One, advised by the TSB to question his 80-year-old mother about missing money, pointed out that even he did not know his personal identification number (PIN) as it was still securely sealed in its envelope.

Another whose PIN was unopened was told by his bank that he must have used his card to make three withdrawals totalling £150. The



Presumed innocent: Denis Whalley says the banks prefer to blame customers rather than their cash machines

National Consumers Council said: "We have consistently pressed for the law to be amended so that the onus is on the banks, rather than the customer, to prove their innocence." Among the many cases of disputed withdrawals on NCC files is that of a retired judge who kicked a cash machine in frustration when it refused his request for a small sum of money. The NCC said: "After he had walked away, the machine suddenly acted like a fruit machine and

ing of the term "gross negligence" and, where there are a number of disputed transactions, the customers could still end up paying hundreds of pounds.

Controversy also rages about the existence of what are popularly known as "phantom withdrawals". APACS said: "If, by phantom withdrawal, you mean a machine spontaneously generating a transaction, we say it cannot happen. If you mean someone else has got hold of a card and the correct PIN number,

then yes that is perfectly possible. We have never claimed banks are infallible, but we say there is always a record of a machine malfunctioning." Mistakes made by the machine will always be picked up later on the bank's "audit trail", a print-out of daily transactions recorded by the machine, APACS said. If there is no record of an error, no error can have been made.

A number of the cases cited by Mr Whalley involve machine malfunction. In one example, Barclays finally agreed to reimburse a customer because of "apparent" machine error six weeks after sending a letter categorically denying that the

machine could have been at fault. Mr Whalley said this begged the question as to precisely what investigation had been carried out prior to Barclays' initial denial.

In another instance, a customer of TSB in the Channel Islands was charged £600 after being unable to withdraw £200 from a Barclays ATM in Crewe. Only after "persistent questioning" was she finally told that the machine had developed a fault at the time of the disputed withdrawal, and the money was returned.

It is virtually impossible to discover how many disputes are under way at any one time. The APACS spokesman said that there were two new cases a day, but admitted that this figure applied only to those reaching the banking ombudsman.

Richard Tyson-Davies, of APACS, told Thames TV's *This Week* programme in November that disputes were running at 30 a day, but was unavailable to comment this week. Barclays was quoted last year as saying there were 82 new cases each day.

The banking ombudsman's report for the year to September 1992 said 879 complaints were received, of which 346 were investigated and a third were decided in customers' favour. Chris Eadie, deputy banking ombudsman, said the number of cases had dropped in the wake of the banking code.

Among the cases is that of a retired judge who kicked a cash machine when it refused his request

Prompt action helps victim

By LINDSAY COOK

WHEN Melanie Burgess was mugged last month, she reported the loss of her credit card and cash cards to the police straight away and, within an hour, told her bank, Midland, to cancel her cards.

It was about 9.30pm and she was given a reference number to give to her bank branch the next day. She telephoned the bank the next morning and gave the reference number. She thought nothing more about her savings and cheque account until she received a statement for the former a fortnight later.

This showed that at least £500 had been taken from her account unlawfully. She thought her card allowed only £250 to be withdrawn a day. When Ms Burgess, who works for *The Times*, telephoned her branch, she was referred to head office and questioned about whether her personal identification number had been written down. She answered that it had been, but that it was disguised. She also pointed out how quickly she had reported the theft to the

police and the bank. The next day a letter arrived telling her that the money would be reimbursed. Yesterday, her branch explained that the money had been withdrawn with the card at £100 a time. Her daily limit was in fact £500.

But because she acted quickly, the bank had reimbursed the money without having to examine how secure her codification of the PIN was. Under the banking code of practice, cash cards are only liable for up to £50 of losses up to the time the card is reported missing, unless the customer is seriously negligent and writes the PIN down in a form that is easily understood by others, or tells other people what the number is.

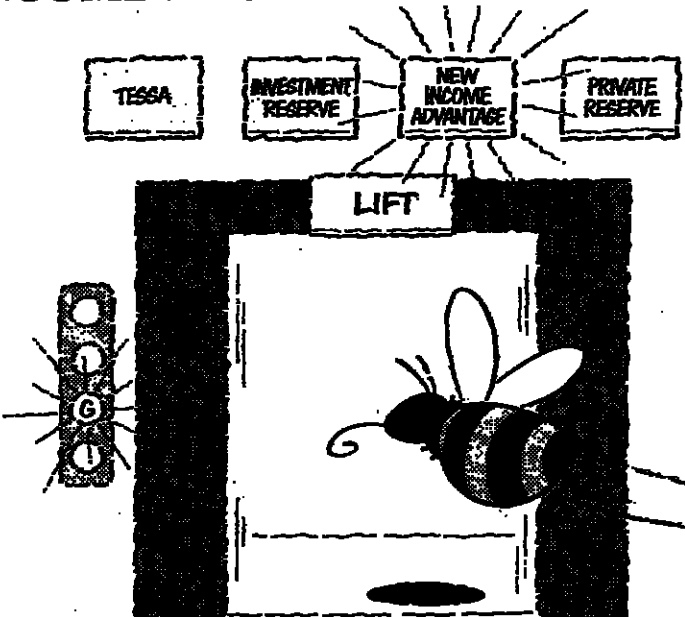
The code, which came into operation last March, was intended to bring cash cards into line with credit cards. However, some banks tested the system first by taking cases to Laurence Shurman, the banking ombudsman, to establish what gross negligence is in connection with cash cards. One bank had taken the stance that the machines cannot be used without a card and correct number and,

therefore, if money is withdrawn, the customer must have been grossly negligent. The ombudsman found in favour of the customer and Mr Shurman told the bank that he expected it to use the case as guidance in the future.

However, it does not matter how negligent a cardholder is. If money is withdrawn after the bank was notified of the loss, then a stop should have been put on the card. In one case handled by the ombudsman last year, the bank did not act quickly enough in cancelling the card. Before the card was reported stolen, £150 was withdrawn and £500 was withdrawn afterwards. As a gesture of goodwill, the bank offered to split the losses and credited the customer with £325. The ombudsman cut the customer's loss to £150.

Banks and building societies feared a flood of fraudulent claims when the banking code came into operation, arguing that it was a fraudster's charter. The banks now agree that there has not been an upsurge in the number of cards going missing and cash being withdrawn before a bank is notified.

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Beware pitfalls behind a fixed monthly income

BY HELEN PRIDHAM

INVESTORS are being presented with an ever-increasing range of income-producing schemes. One of the latest is a National & Provincial Building Society plan offering a fixed monthly income from unit trusts. However, when the emphasis is on income, there is sometimes a tendency among investors to overlook what might happen to their capital.

N&P's scheme is unusual because the income from unit trusts normally fluctuates. The quoted yields are only estimates and the actual amount paid out will depend on how much income a fund receives from its underlying investments. If it holds shares in companies that cut their dividends, the unit trust may have to reduce its income payments.

At present, there are ten unit trusts that pay out a monthly income. Two of the largest are Framlington's Monthly Income Fund and Fidelity's Gilt & Fixed Interest Fund. Mary Blair, product development director at Fidelity, hopes the scheme will provide smooth monthly payments but, like Framlington, these are not guaranteed. Framlington keeps payments steady for 11 months of the year and tops up the last payment with the surplus income in the fund.

However, under N&P's Income Advantage scheme, income will be fixed at the time of investment for 12 months in advance. The rate will depend on the yields of the underlying unit trusts. For those investing through a PEP, this will be a combination of N&P Higher Income and UK Income, while for those investing direct, the Higher Income and Gilt & Fixed Interest



Hoping it performs smoothly: Mary Blair, of Fidelity

funds will be used. The half-yearly income payments from these funds will be pooled and paid to investors monthly at the initially agreed rate.

Tim Crowley, manager of Life Assurance, Pensions and Investments at N&P, said: "We believe these funds will pay out sufficient to cover the fixed income, but if there was a shortfall, we will make up the difference. This will be recouped from the following

year's income. It will be taken into account when the following year's fixed rate is set". No capital will be used to top up the income payments. However, Mr Crowley said: "If there has been an overpayment of income when an investor cashes in, then this will be clawed back from the capital."

With yields on the scheme likely to be fixed at a modest 5 per cent for the PEP and 4 per

cent for the unit trust route, N&P's scheme does not look over-ambitious. While the income is fixed under N&P's scheme, the capital value of the unit trusts is not. So if the stock market tumbles, so would the value of the investment. Over the medium term, equity invested in unit trusts has tended to produce worthwhile capital growth. According to Microcap, the average total return from UK equity income funds over the past five years has been 45 per cent.

Such growth is not guaranteed, and investors in schemes such as Scottish Widows' Monthly Bond and Clerical Medical's Balanced Investment Plan, which are offering fixed monthly incomes of 9 per cent net for five years, need to be aware. The high income payable under these schemes is achieved by using 40 per cent of the initial investment, which is normally about £10,000, to buy a five-year temporary annuity. This income is guaranteed for the full five years. The remaining £6,000 is placed in a unit trust through a PEP. Both schemes need the unit trusts to grow by at least 13 per cent a year over the next five years if the capital is going to be reinstated at the end of the period. Lower interest rates and lower inflation expectations make such a growth rate look distinctly over-optimistic and Kevin Sime, of Scottish Widows, admitted that "a few eyebrows have been raised at the growth rate but we believe it is feasible." Over the past five years, however, Scottish Widows' UK High Income unit trust, to which the scheme is linked, has grown only at 9.54 per cent a year, with gross income reinvested.

Private investors promise confident return

BY LIZ DOLAN

GOVERNMENT hopes for a healthy response to the forthcoming BT3 sale received a shot in the arm this week with new evidence of a revival of public confidence in share buying.

The latest monthly Gallup poll for Pearl Assurance suggests private investors are plunging back into the stock market with an enthusiasm not seen since the post-election surge a year ago. A rise by 4.2 percentage points in Pearl's monthly investor confidence index from 90.6 in April to 94.8 in May, is backed by a 20 per cent jump in consumer intentions to invest in shares, as recorded by Pearl's consumer investment index. Be-

lieve in the attractions of the stock market is not, as yet, universal, however, with confidence levels apparently closely related to respondents' disposable income.

While 50 per cent of men questioned now believe the stock market will go higher over the next year, compared with 45 per cent last month, women are still considerably more cautious. More than 70 per cent of the women in the survey remain unconvinced that the market will rise, a situation that has shown little change over the month.

Manual workers have also yet to be convinced that share prices will be higher in a year's time, with confidence levels little changed at 31.5 per cent, compared with 31 per cent last time. In contrast,

company directors, who suffered a slight attack of stock market jitters in April, have now recovered their nerve, with confidence levels soaring from 58 per cent to 71 per cent.

Pitifully low building society savings rates are reflected in the fact that just three more people in every hundred intend to put money on deposit in building society accounts, whereas a fifth of those questioned plan to invest in the stock market. Intentions to buy tax-free products such as Peps or Tessas, which soared in April, were unchanged in May as the new tax year dawned.

The indices are compiled from a monthly survey of 2,000 people nationwide.

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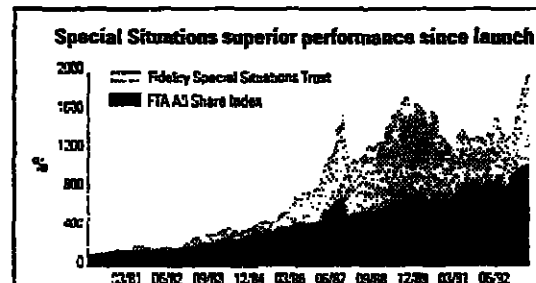
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THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

Moves to make ticket touts face the music

By MARGARET DIBBEN

THE government announced this week that it would introduce legislation at the earliest opportunity to outlaw ticket touts.

Tom Pendry, Labour MP for Stalybridge and Hyde, reckoned that football fans paid £138,000 above face value for FA Cup Final tickets and Robert Key, the junior national heritage minister, said: "This is a problem we cannot sidestep for ever."

There is no law against anyone selling tickets above face value for a football match, concert or a tour of Buckingham Palace. But those in the business of selling tickets in legitimate ways have been campaigning for change and were delighted with the government's statement.

Mr Patrick Deuchar, chief executive at the Albert Hall, said: "Almost daily we see traders on the pavement outside the hall selling tickets for grossly inflated prices. Some buy the tickets but find it is not the value for money they thought. They then ask us why we allow it to happen and it affects the image of the hall."

Postal applications have just opened for BBC Prom tickets, a long-running and rich vein for the touts. Police at Gerald Road police station, who are responsible for the Albert Hall area, said: "We give them a verbal warning and move them on, but if they ignore that we can only arrest them for obstruction."

A police spokesman added: "The scale of the problem depends on how attractive the gig is. We had Mike Oldfield at the Albert Hall, but he did a whole week and there were more than enough tickets to go round."

Tickets for the Last Night of



Last Night of the Proms: a rich target for the wily touts

the Proms are a different matter. There are tens of thousands of applications for 3,800 places. Those who are lucky in the lottery pay £50 each in the stalls; on the black market music-lovers are willing to pay £350.

However, it is not easy for

ordinary purchasers to make a quick buck by selling their tickets. Touts are a wily lot who make a good living simply from buying and selling nothing else and can teach psychologists a trick or two. It is easy for regular concert or theatre-goers to recognise

the touts. They slide up to ask if anyone has spare tickets to sell.

Someone with tickets they cannot use who tries to sell them through a fly-by-night ticket agency, through which touts operate, will be asked to name a price. The tout probably will suck his teeth and say the bottom has just dropped out of the market.

If he is seriously interested, he makes a few telephone calls to clients using code words that tell the listener a ticket holder is standing there. He puts the phone down and says with a poker player's face: "I'm sorry, there are too many tickets around." In fact, he has probably done a deal with the tickets being offered but says: "Just in case I can get rid of them, I'll give you £75."

The seller may refuse, realising they are worth more and that the tout probably has a buyer lined up. But the tout will not budge: all he loses if his offer is turned down is the opportunity to make a large profit.

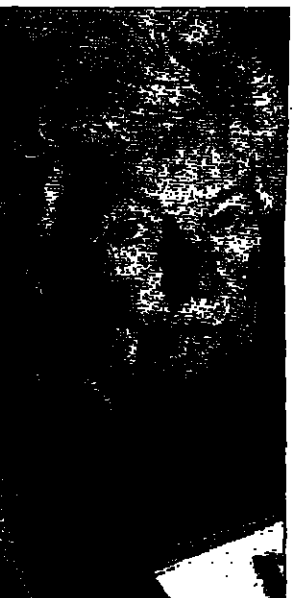
The tout knows that the holder has to sell the tickets before the concert or match or they become worthless. He can buy them at his price and make a good profit or he can leave a client disappointed. He does not mind which, because he still has a client all the keener to pay a high price now he sees that tickets are so hard to come by.

The Albert Hall does not help the situation because it will not accept tickets back for resale. However, Mr Deuchar said: "We always try to help people if we can, especially for an occasion like the Last Night of the Proms."

His advice to anyone stuck with a ticket they cannot use: "Please give it to a friend rather than sell it to a tout."

Time bar on late payment interest

By LIZ DOLAN



Delayed payment: Patricia Sisk still awaits her cheque

INSURERS can retain the money due on matured policies for 62 days without penalty. The Association of British Insurers' rules say that interest has to be paid only when the sum due is delayed more than two months.

However, companies that have been unable to contact policyholders will also have to pay interest after two months, even when they are not at fault.

Patricia Sisk, a retired teacher from Sutton Coldfield, was still awaiting a cheque for £4,100 on Thursday, nearly three weeks after the tenth anniversary of her Family Assurance policy. She sent the company a discharge form on April 25, but on May 5, it denied receiving the form. She filled in another but, eight days later, there was still no cheque. On Wednesday, Fam-

ily promised a cheque would be sent immediately.

Barry Chambers, marketing director, saw no reason to pay interest in this case, but "we will always do so if payments are unreasonably delayed because we've been sloppy".

Policyholders are contacted about six weeks before the tenth anniversary. They are offered the choice of withdrawing all, or part, of the money or leaving it in the fund. Two-thirds left the money in the fund, Mr Chambers said, and 25 per cent took a new policy.

Payment delays normally occur because of the need to ensure the cheque is being sent to the correct person. Legal & General minimises the risk of late payment by initiating security checks a month before maturity. Policyholders will normally receive

a post-dated cheque two weeks before policies mature.

Norwich Union alerts policyholders six to eight weeks before maturity. Two reminders are then sent. It said: "If we have caused a delay, we pay interest from maturity. If we are not at fault, we pay interest on payments delayed by more than a month."

Guardian Royal Exchange contacts policyholders four to six weeks in advance and cheques are timed to arrive on maturity. It will not pay interest on payments delayed for less than two months, even when it is at fault.

Abbey Life starts proceedings six weeks before maturity. It has a guaranteed turnaround of only two working days. If payments are delayed "even by a couple of days", it will pay interest at the prevailing rate.

Commercial Union will not pay interest on payments that have been delayed by less than a month.

Tracing policyholders can be a problem. Legal & General says it still owes more than £400,000 to people whose policies matured at least a year ago. Peter Timbedake, marketing manager, said: "We have a couple of hundred cases who have an average £2,000 each awaiting them, but who we have been unable to track down." These are usually people who have moved at least once since taking out the policy and are either unaware that the policy has matured or have forgotten it exists.

Legal & General tries to trace policyholders via banks and, for people over retirement age, the social security department. After about a year, it gives up the chase, but the money is retained in current accounts in case the policyholder contacts it later. Occasionally, the cash is claimed when a policyholder dies and the estate discovers the document.

Norwich Union holds nearly £5 million in unclaimed policies. Most of the money is owed on without-profits policies, probably because there are no bonus announcements to act as a reminder of the policy. GRE has nearly £3 million owed to policyholders for more than six months.

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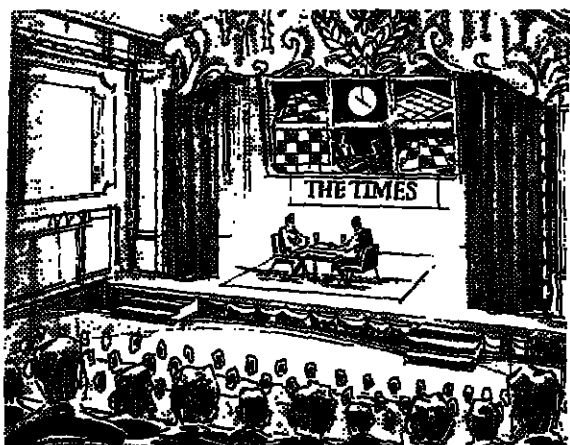
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World Chess Championship Information Line 071-782 7155 bet. 9.00 and 6.00pm Mon-Fri.



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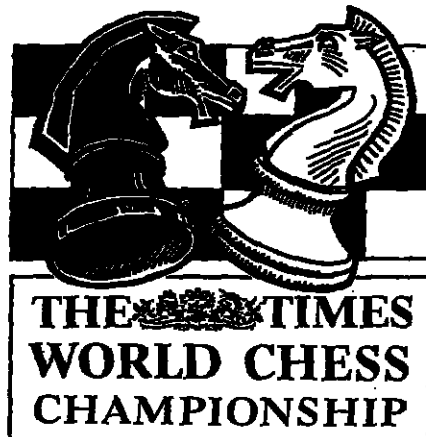
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THE TIMES
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

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Chess Bonds are available in a range of five prices, related to seating areas in the theatre (See Seating Plan):

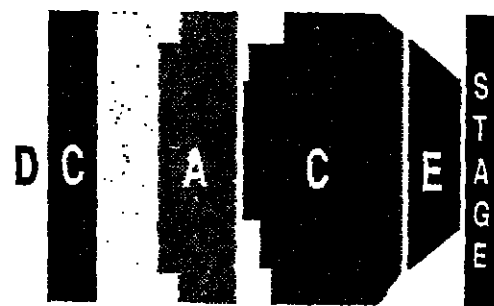
A Bonds (£150) entitle holders to Dress Circle seats Rows A-E

B Bonds (£125) entitle holders to Dress Circle seats Rows F-L

C Bonds (£85) entitle holders to Front Upper Circle seats Rows A-E or Stalls Rows G-W

D Bonds (£65) entitle holders to Upper Circle seats Rows F-L

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There will be a limited allocation of Chess Debentures, which will entitle holders to guaranteed seats for all 24 games.

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All games begin at 3.30pm at the Savoy Theatre. All play finishes at 9.30pm or before if games are decided. Adjourned games will be continued the following day at times and venues to be announced.

Game 1	Tues, September 7	Game 13	Tues, October 5
Game 2	Thurs, September 9	Game 14	Thurs, October 7
Game 3	Sat, September 11	Game 15	Sat, October 9
Game 4	Tues, September 14	Game 16	Tues, October 12
Game 5	Thurs, September 16	Game 17	Thurs, October 14
Game 6	Sat, September 18	Game 18	Sat, October 16
Game 7	Tues, September 21	Game 19	Tues, October 19
Game 8	Thurs, September 23	Game 20	Thurs, October 21
Game 9	Sat, September 25	Game 21	Sat, October 23
Game 10	Tues, September 28	Game 22	Tues, October 26
Game 11	Thurs, September 30	Game 23	Thurs, October 28
Game 12	Sat, October 2	Game 24	Sat, October 30

During play, patrons are free to leave the auditorium and return providing the rule of silence is observed. There are three bar areas, all equipped with video monitors so that patrons can follow the games at all times.

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مَكَدَانِ الْأَمَلِ

Daft aggressor with an eye-popping need for perfection

ONE of the things I have always admired in Robin Smith is his complete lack of self-consciousness. Most of us, if we were to be on television for 3½ hours, would try very hard not to pull silly faces that made us look like eye-popping idiots.

But not Smith. Never once, during his absolutely colossal one-day knock yesterday, did he let up on the silly faces. And I respect that. It is as admirable, and as character revealing, in its way as the way he actually puts his bat on the ball.

Smith has decided that the constant eye exercises help him. Why not? Vision is, after all, a useful thing in a test of hand-eye

co-ordination. Still, Smith is the only cricketer to go in for conspicuous face-pulling. One wonders whether the eye-popping helps keep tiredness from the eye or self-doubt from the mind but that is an academic issue. Smith *thinks* that exercises are the answer and so, therefore, they are the answer.

If something helps Smith to bat better, he becomes impervious to all criticism, all ridicule. Take the exercises, the squats and the jolly little bunny-hops. He looks daft, no doubt about it. But as far as Smith is concerned, it works, and there is the end to the matter. A touch undignified but you do not have to stand on your dignity when you have 167 runs on the board.

Simon Barnes sees Robin Smith win his mind game to conjure an innings of Bothamesque proportions

Smith's batting looked quite extraordinarily confident yesterday, as if he has never had a moment of self-doubt in his life. But this is not the case at all. He is prone to alarming slumps of form. He has hardly hit the ball off the square all season. Getting his *hundred* runs in May looked like a tall task on Thursday.

But Smith has known worse slumps than this one and has set about curing them in his own way: always utterly regardless of personal dignity. When technique and

confidence deserted him in Australia a couple of winters back, he went through public coaching sessions that would have been possibly embarrassing to just about any other cricketer in history.

His brother, Chris, talked him through the most elementary matters of batting. Many observers thought the whole business was not only unnecessary but actively damaging to a man suffering from shattered confidence.

Nobody could say whether it was the quality of the coaching or

simply the glow Smith plainly feels from tackling a problem head on. Like the eye exercise and bunny-hop, it worked, or seemed to work. The point is that Smith took on his problem — of nerves, co-ordination, technique, personality, whatever — and hammered it into submission.

He is an extraordinary contrast of twitching nervousness and towering confidence. Yesterday, he penetrated that rare, seldom visited country that most batsmen only dream about; a land where no bowler can bowl at you and all balls are bad. Smith's last 50, in 20 balls, was a gorgeous piece of scientific hitting. It was close to Bothamesque; it even came within

distant hailing distance of the Vivianesque.

It was the innings of a man who has never had a self-doubt in his life, but so much of cricket is illusion and legerdemain.

Smith has never been a conjurer with the bat; not a Gower or an Azharuddin. You never sit and wonder how the hell he did that. It is always perfectly obvious; a blow from the Smith bat is as subtle as a meat cleaver.

But Smith is conjurer all right. He is a conjurer with his own mind. He can make self-doubt vanish without trace and — with absolutely nothing up his sleeve — he can produce self-confidence from a hat.

FA plays waiting game over Bright's challenge

BY KEITH PIKE
AND JOHN GOODBODY

MARK Bright, the Sheffield Wednesday striker, is unlikely to escape further punishment for the foul that broke Andy Linighan's nose during the FA Cup final replay on Thursday. Bright was cautioned after his elbow came into contact with Linighan's face as they challenged for a high ball and the Football Association confirmed yesterday that it had received a number of complaints from spectators about the incident.

"No decision on whether any action should be taken will be made until we have received the referee's report," an FA spokesman said. He also said that complaints had been made against Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker, who was alleged to have mouthed obscenities at a linesman.

Yesterday, an unnamed member of the Cardiff City team, who won the third division and the Welsh Cup this season, was dismissed for selling four FA Cup final tickets on the black market.

The Professional Footballers' Association believes that this is the first time a player has had his contract ended for dealing with ticket touts. The player, who will be named when the team returns from holiday next week, can appeal to the Football League within the next 14 days.

The club said he is now free to join another club. Both he and Cardiff City could be fined by the Football Association for involvement in reselling the tickets. The player, whose offence comes under clause 16 dealing with "serious or persistent misconduct", resold four £35 tickets for £80 each. The club says that he has admitted the offence.

Rick Wright, the owner of Cardiff City, said that the players and officials were warned against reselling tickets and had also signed a declaration promising that only relatives or friends would receive them. "I was very angry when I learned that Cardiff City tickets had turned up on the black market," he said.

The team, due to play in the Welsh Cup final the day after the FA Cup final, was not allowed to go to Wembley.

Final insult, page 35

Smith's record innings fails to tip balance

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

EDGBASTON (Australia won toss; Australia beat England by six wickets)

EVERY once in a while, the measured tread of one-day cricket is quickened by a genuinely great innings. Only an elite few can be compared with the breathtaking 167 not out by Robin Smith yesterday and yet, thanks to two Australian innings which barely suffered by comparison, it was all in vain.

Australia, chasing 278 in much the best of the conditions, made it with quite ridiculous ease thanks to English bowling of stereotyped misdirection and a masterful fourth-wicket stand of 168, paced to perfection by Mark Waugh, who scored 113, and Allan Border.

They were home with nine balls to spare and the first spoils of the summer are theirs already. The match at Lord's tomorrow has no more than exhibition value for the spectators, morale value for the players.

Australia have won the Texaco Trophy and, with it, £20,000 in prize money.

There was nothing, on a morning of damp and gloom in Birmingham, to prepare us for what was to come. The first game, on Wednesday, had been a batsman's banana-skin and England, put into bat here when they would much prefer to have been bowling, played for an hour as if a total of much above 150 would be beyond them.

Smith, however, is a cricketing pugilist, a heavy-weight at that. Adversity is his adrenalin and, initial caution giving way to an awesome authority, he turned this match around with such a relentless array of shots that, briefly, it resembled men against boys.

There have been four bigger scores in one-day internationals, two by Vivian Richards and one each by Glenn Turner and Kapil Dev. Perhaps only Richards' 189 at Old Trafford, nine years ago, improved on this one for quality and there can be no higher praise of Smith than that some of his strokes mir-

rored the majesty of the great West Indian.

In the confinements of a limited-overs match, statistics sometimes do tell the story. Smith, for instance, scored 167 while the rest of England's batting managed 91. He was never slow but, in the latter stages, he was electrifying, moving from 100 to 150 in 20 balls and scoring 76 from the last 30 balls he faced.

Steve Waugh's last two overs were carted for 33 runs. Paul Reiffel conceded 20 in a single over and Merv Hughes 18. Only the admirable Craig McDermott rose above the punishment, emerging with three for 29 despite having to bowl two of the last three overs.

McDermott has, thus far, been a class above any bowler on either side in this competition. His first seven-overs spell yesterday, admittedly when the pitch and atmosphere were at their most helpful, would have tested any batsman in the world.

Alec Stewart failed the test early, bowled off an inside edge when he should have been forward rather than back. Graham Gooch, having played and missed with regularity, finally got a touch to one which left him. When Graeme Hick, driving without due care, was caught behind, England were 55 for three.

Hick had been cheered to the wicket by the 18,000 full house, a hero at last in his adopted land. If Smith was even a mite envious, he chose

the best possible way to address the situation, leaving behind his sketchy early season form and deciding any doubt that he will occupy the No 3 position throughout the summer. A stand of 50 with Fairbrother was a contrast in styles and, on this occasion, it was no surprise when Fairbrother perished, his habit of opening the bat's face courting calamity with the ball moving around off the seam. The catch which removed him was worth seeing, Taylor leaping like a goalkeeper at short extra-cover.

For the second game in succession, Graham Thorpe arrived at a crucial time and belied his inexperience. On Wednesday, circumstances allowed him no time to settle; now, the priority was to do just that, remaining as long as possible as Smith's straight man. He carried this out so successfully and unselfishly that the partnership of 142, in 21 overs, was only ten runs short of the fifth-wicket record for one-day internationals.

When the ball was short, Smith cut savagely. When it was full, he drove with full flow of the bat. He found the gaps in the field with the unerring precision of a golfer hitting the green, hole after hole. It was so stunning to watch that Border clapped him all the way to the pavilion. Perhaps, in his heart, the Australian captain knew it was not enough.

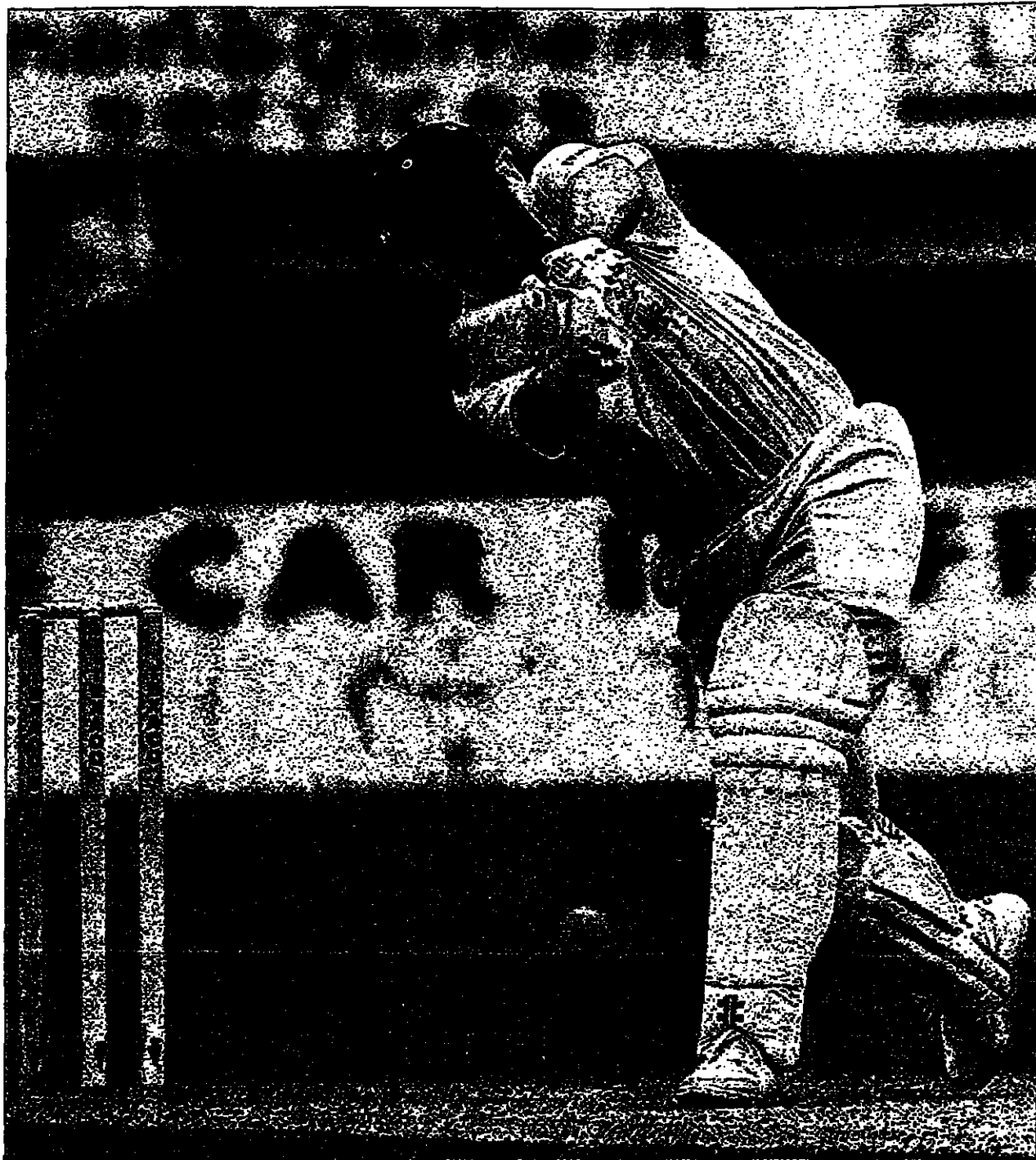
An early wicket for Paul Jarvis, and miserly bowling by Andy Caddick, sustained English hopes. When Boon fell to Derek Pringle in the last over before tea, the Ladbrokes' man brandished new odds, England 5-2 on.

They never looked like justifying such confidence. Waugh was quite brilliant and, if carrying this form into the Test series, will be a constant hazard. Border was pugnacious itself, seeing the chase through in typical fashion when Waugh departed with 15 still needed. England's out-cricketer was ragged, their bowling wayward, their heads, by the end, hanging low. They have much work to do.

County reports, page 31



Mark Waugh: perfect pace to set up victory



Record-breaker: Smith bludgeons a cover-drive on his way to an unbeaten 167 at Edgbaston yesterday

Australia won toss

ENGLAND	167	46	10	5	6
G A Gooch c Healy b McDermott	17	2	57	49	
edged out					
A J Stewart b McDermott	0	0	10	6	
side leg on to stumps					
R A Smith not out	167	3	17	206	163

G A Hick c Healy b Reiffel	2	2	19	9	
edged out					
N H Fairbrother c Taylor b S Waugh	23	3	49	45	
head-high drive to cover point's right					
G P Thorpe c Border b McDermott	36	1	76	63	
drive to extra cover					
C G Lewis not out	13	1	10	9	

Extras (lb 2, lb 4, w 2, nb 11)	19				
Total (5 wickets, 220 mins, 55 overs)	277				

D R Pringle, D G Cork, P W Jarvis and A R Caddick did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3 (Gooch 2), 2-40 (Smith 18), 3-55 (Smith 20), 4-105 (Smith 48), 5-247 (Smith 153).

BOWLING: McDermott 11-1-29-3 (lb 2) (7-1-15-2, 2-0-3-0, 2-0-1-1), Hughes 11-2-51-0 (lb 1) (5-1-16-0, 2-1-1-0, 4-0-34-0), Reiffel 11-1-70-1 (lb 3) (3-0-13-0, 3-0-3-0, 5-11-0-46-1) (lb 1) (one spell), S Waugh 8-0-55-1 (lb 1) (5-0-22-1, 2-0-33-0), M Waugh 3-0-21-0 (lb 2) (one spell).

AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA	26	46	2	37	30
M A Taylor b Lewis	26	2	37	30	
played on					
M L Hayden b Jarvis	14	2	37	30	
bowed through gate					
M E Waugh c Fairbrother b Lewis	113	8	169	122	
dropped half-volley to mid-wicket					
D G Boon c Stewart b Pringle	21	3	30	29	
trying to run ball to third man					
A R Border not out	86	9	117	96	
"A R Border not out"					
S R Waugh not out	6	1	7	3	

Extras (lb 5, w 3, nb 6) 14.

Total (4 wickets, 216 mins, 53.3 overs) 280.

(A Healy, M G Hughes, C J McDermott, P R Reiffel and T B A May did not bat).

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26 (Taylor 14), 2-55 (M Waugh 14), 3-95 (M E Waugh 33), 4-235 (Border 73).

BOWLING: Caddick 11-1-43-0 (lb 2) (7-1-16-0, 2-0-17-0, 2-0-10-0), Jarvis 10-1-51-1 (lb 1) (7-1-27-1, 2-0-13-0, 1-0-11-0), Lewis 10-3-41-2 (lb 3) (4-0-23-1, 3-0-15-0, 3-0-12-0, 1-0-11-0), Pringle 11-0-53-1 (lb 2) (3-0-13-0, 3-0-35-1, 2-0-15-0), Cork 11-1-57-0 (7-1-27-0, 2-0-12-0, 1-0-5-0, 1-0-13-0).

Man of the match: R A Smith (adjudicator: Sir Richard Hadlee).

Umpires: M J Kitchin and K E Palmer.

Under the mallet at Budleigh

Curiouser and curiouser. I learn to my undisguised horror that the sword (or possibly the mallet) of Damocles hangs over the world championship of croquet. It is due to be played at — where else? — Budleigh Salterton in Devon, in September. But the sport's major annual event, the fifth of its kind, bringing the 15 croquet-playing nations together in battle, is likely to be called off in the next week or so. The problem is a simple one: lolly.

The competition needs money to fly in the world's top players: icy-eyed break-building experts with a strong distaste for Alice jokes. They are not vicious, either, as legend insists; just very, very clever. But after three championships at the Hurlingham Club and one last year at Newport, Rhode Island, the grand adventure seems to be

running out of puff. In fact, croquet has learnt that in a recession, even one that is officially over, it takes all the running you can do to stay in the same place. What the championships need is a miracle, or, failing that, a sponsor.

Naturally, I would be happy to pass on any suggestions for either.

Walton wonders

Hero of the week: who else but Cecil Walton? Walton is the goalkeeper for the Cayman Islands football team, and his stunning performance saw his side through to an extraordinary victory over Norwich last week. Two saves from Mark Robins were the highlights: Lee Ramoon scored the only goal from 25 yards. There are about half-a-dozen pitches on the Cayman Islands. "The keeper played a blinder," Rob Newman, one of the Norwich players, said. Mike Walker, the manager, refused to comment. He didn't have anything to say about their defeat by Jamaica earlier in the week, either.



SIMON BARNES
Sporting Diary

A few weeks ago, this column was waiting with bated breath to bring news of Britain's first permanent ski-jump. I fear that my breath is still just as bated as ever. This great adventure, this flight into the future, this testament of faith

in the skill and daring of the young, has still to leap into actuality. The plans involve the Army at Catterick: can we doubt that the Army would fail to give its support to the skill and courage of the young Brit? Surely not.

Yankee bet

If you like the idea of losing your war before breakfast, then next time you are in Arlington Heights, Illinois, you can bet to your heart's content on British racing and be out to get on with the rest of the day by mid-morning. The track has begun to offer "simulcasts" of British race meetings. If any American punters are puzzled, tell them the green stuff the horses run on is called grass.



Out of focus

The Year of the False Start continues. I read in *Athletics Today* magazine that we had a Captain Brown Situation at the South African athletics championships recently. The women's 800 metres event was to have been led by a triumphal motorbike carrying the sacred television camera. But a couple of seconds after the start, the damn thing stalled right in the middle of the track. Yes, a red flag was waved at the runners. Yes, the entire field ignored it. The red flag was still aloft when the Wickwell crossed the line first in 2min 4.31sec. After a steward's enquiry, the result was allowed to stand.

Double take

Summer must be here after all. I have just received the first Silly Hat-trick Story of the summer. Marc Rivaland writes to tell me of a match played by The Raynes Park Residents Lawn Tennis Club — perhaps a sport to which the residents should confine themselves — against

Thames Television. The captain of the telly chaps clean bowled the last two batsmen with successive balls. But, since the tennis chaps had been playing with ten men (would that Tewin Irregulars could find as many), their last man, Nick Woods, was invited to bat again. He took up this sporting offer, returned to the crease, and the next ball was caught.

Exact return

Here is a profound story about the morality of the betting man. Lucio Massa, cashier of a betting shop in Naples, was opening up the shop at 11 in the morning earlier this week. At once a masked man appeared, a pistol in his hand. "Give me three and a half million lire," he said. Trembling, Massa handed over the first wodge of cash that came to hand. The gunman removed three and a half million lire and handed back the rest, about ten million lire. "I am taking what I lost on Sunday," the bandit said. "The rest does not interest me."

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Do you feel that cricket is not quite cricket anymore? That current cricket kit is, quite simply, hideous; you know, those tight 100% nylon, track suit bottoms which insult the name "trousers". And those tight, short sleeved shirts gratuitously riddled with man-made fibres.

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STAYING IN HAY-ON-WYE

OUTINGS suitable for children are plentiful around Hay. Daniel Johnson writes (see preceding page). The dinosaur park at Dan yr Ogof, Powys, was a great hit with Tycho, three, and Edith, 17 months, but the place is really famous for its spectacular caves.

The children dictated our choice of a farmhouse bed and breakfast in which to stay. Treheren Farm lies some eight miles into Wales, at Felinfach, on the Brecon to Hay road. This is a working farm of 200 acres, with beef, sheep and cereals. Theresa Jones has three large and comfortable rooms to let in her 18th-century farmhouse, and charges £17 a night per person for bed and a hearty breakfast, or £26 with an appetising evening meal included.

Mrs Jones, who is from Northern Ireland, was flexibility itself and provided food for tired toddlers as and when they needed it.

There are several other farms like Treheren around Hay, and the Joneses are about to open a cottage for self-catering holidays.

Those for whom price is no object (and who have no children under eight)

should treat themselves to nearby Llangood Hall. This 17th-century house, largely rebuilt by Clough Williams-Ellis, is a hotel of the utmost luxury and impeccable taste. Although in Wales, it seems very English. The dinner we had there was expensive but as good as anything I have had for years, and the service friendly but not familiar. It has an exceptional cellar, with good advice for those who need it. Room prices start at £65 a night.

Also worth a visit is the Three Cocks Hotel, a 15th-century inn at the village of Three Cocks. We dined very well there: its proprietors, Mr and Mrs Winstone, offer good value at £42.50 a night for dinner, bed and breakfast.

Nearer Hay, we enjoyed a delicious fish pie for lunch at the Baskerville Arms in Clyro, and the children were well catered for. This pub is opposite Ash Brook House, where Francis Kilvert was curate.

In Hay itself I had a good and inexpensive lunch at the Blue Boar, well placed for weary book-buyers.

For more information, contact the Wales Tourist Board on 0222 499909.

James MacManus took his family to a Bournemouth hotel in the wind and rain — and still enjoyed it

Fish, chips and Old Thumper



High and mighty: a "great white battleship of a building", the Highcliff Hotel crests the cliff above the beach at Bournemouth — a cable car takes visitors to the sand

The end of the pier was lost in mist, clouds the colour of gunmetal slumped over the rooftops, and an east wind blew sharp-toothed gusts of rain across the town; Bournemouth on the eve of Easter did not offer a pleasing prospect.

The new one-way system, cunningly modelled on the Labyrinth that Daedalus built for King Minos, did not help: neither did my wife, Amanda, who, despite being a colonialist, tends to take a lofty view of English nostalgia for past glories — especially the seaside.

By the time we arrived at the Highcliff Hotel the windscreen wipers were battling against a downpour, while from the back seat our 19-month-old daughter, Elizabeth, voiced her disapproval of the proceedings with the hump of a young elephant.

It was a damp and distinctly irritable trio that trudged to the reception desk. A few hours earlier the idea of a breezy day or so by the sea, giving Elizabeth her first scamper along the immemorial sands of childhood, had seemed brilliant. Now the breakfast brainwave looked more like a brain storm.

Still, the Highcliff offered a welcome refuge from the rain. The young staff bustled off with the luggage, cooed and goosed over Elizabeth and shepherded us off to a decent-sized family room. But I could tell that my heavily pregnant wife felt a two-hour drive along the rain-lashed motorway back to London was preferable to any further acquaintance with this or any other seaside resort.

Happily, the curtains came to the rescue. There are two things that my wife demands of any hotel: decently lined curtains in the bedrooms, and a shower that delivers a powerful spray of water at the right temperature. The Highcliff passed this test and, as I stared into the midday murk over the Channel with a large malt whisky in hand, happy slosh-

outside the hotel front door from cliff-top to beach. Miles of deserted sand were furrowed by tractors that clean the beaches every day. The pier glowed with fresh paint. Even the boardwalk seemed to have been scrubbed. If cleanliness is next to godliness, Bournemouth can't be far behind.

From the end of the pier the Highcliff looked spectacular, a

real surprise. So was the wine. The Chairman's white burgundy at £15 a bottle was a big, fat, juicy bargain — and the baby alarm linking the bedroom to reception allowed me a large, lingering brandy.

Bournemouth promotes itself as a "garden city by the coast", a resort that is within easy reach of the New Forest and the delights of the Dorset coast to the west. Being a sucker for travel brochures I am sure that all this and more is true, but for us the real treat was the discovery of Britain's best fish and chip shop, Chez Fred. Wisely, they wouldn't tell us how they made the scrumptious batter, but there was definitely a touch of Old Thumper in there somewhere.



Beach bound: Elizabeth, James and Amanda MacManus

ing sounds came from the bathroom.

Aware of the devastation that a toddler can cause at feeding time, we lunched in the Plantation Inn, which is the hotel's coffee shop cum bar. Good sized burgers, a rare and vigorous local beer called Ringwood Old Thumper, and not a flicker of a frown from Keith Grant, the barman, as handbags of ketchup-smears and spaghetti began to spatter walls and floor in our corner.

A wifid child is a great test of any hotel, so far the Highcliff was scoring well. That afternoon we buttoned up raincoats, battered down the plastic cover on the buggy and took the little cable car

great white battleship of a building stretching along the cliff top. It started life in the 1870s as four adjoining houses which failed to sell. They were merged into a hotel, which was run privately until the Swallow group bought and modernised it in the 1980s, managing the trick of preserving the grandeur of the public rooms, while resisting the temptation to carve up the huge old bedrooms into noisy little boxes. That night we dined well on fresh white-bait followed by pink garlicky lamb. For a four-star hotel that caters for both family groups and the business conference market — neither set great foodie types — dinner was a

When we finally left the Highcliff it was with the sincere intention of returning, preferably during a heatwave. We want to sit in the suntrap by the head in the hotel grounds and drink some more Old Thumper. And who knows, next time we might see rather more of Bournemouth than a big empty beach and a small, crowded fish and chip shop.

● The Swallow Highcliff, West Cliff, Bournemouth BH2 5DU (0202 557702, fax 0202 292734). Breakaway rates for two adults for a minimum two-night stay, include dinner, breakfast and one lunch, £135 a night; for one adult and baby, £67.50 a night; two adults with children in family room, £165 a night; two adults with children in own room, £135 plus £23 per child per night. Children's lunch and dinner extra. Sea-view supplement £5 per person per night.

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Dec 13	Port Natal	08:00	09:00
Dec 14	Port Natal	08:00	09:00
Dec 15	Port Natal	08:00	09:00
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DISH OF THE DAY



CHEF: Jean-Christophe Novelli, 32.

PRESENT: Provence, Gortelton Mill Hotel, Hordle, Hants (0580 682219).

PAST: Cooked for Baron Elie de Rothschild in Paris, at Chateau de Giverny, and with Keith Floyd in Devon.

FUTURE: Will move soon to his own London restaurant.

PERSONAL: Few outside interests: "My daughter's future, cricket, and driving carefully — I have 11 points on my licence."

DISH: *Lapin trois façons* (named for his former sous-chef, now launching a bakery at Stoke Fleming in Devon, this has rabbit saddle filled with liver, wrapped in caul fat and steamed, the legs confit with goose fat, and roasted rib cutlets with sage mousses, served with reddened baby spring onions).

PRICE: Included in this week's three-course menus: £17.50 lunch, £25 dinner (£25 lunch and £28.50 two course dinner on Saturdays).

ROBIN YOUNG

East-West food's best

Crunching on a sparrow, Josephine Fairley absorbs the tastes and smells of the Hong Kong Food Festival

Hong Kong residents love their food. The Cantonese for "how are you" translates as "have you eaten yet?" (With grape-sellers, seafood stalls and noodle carts perched on every street corner, the literal answer is probably "Yes, but I wouldn't mind doing so again, thanks.")

If asked to name the international food capitals of the world, Hong Kong would not, perhaps, spring readily to many gourmets' minds. But according to foodie Glynis Christian, a regular visitor, "Hong Kong is right up there with the finest. I've had some of the best meals of my life in the city, both Eastern and Western cuisine."

Hong Kong boasts a long tradition of eating out, whether you're a factory worker (on the protectorate's £450-a-month minimum wage) or a £200,000-a-year commodity broker, because, in the words of Willie Mark, Hong Kong's leading gourmet writer: "Our homes are so small. You simply never entertain at home. It's a loss of face." (The Patters, who have so far played host to Eton John, Kevin Cosner and Joceline Dimbleby, are a notable exception.) The equivalent of £6 will get you a delicious dim sum lunch at Maxim's Palace. At the other end of the scale, "a gourmand could sink £300 a head in the top restaurants or hotels for the koi-noor of dinners", according to Mr Mark.

Yet, surprisingly, in this throbbing international playground, where East meets West (and where it feels just like London in the 1980s, as you jostle for pavement space with yuppie phone-toting wheeler-dealers of every national, there is no trademark Eurasian cuisine unique to the city itself. Mr Christian observes: "You'll find the finest Eastern food — not just Chinese, but Thai and Malaysian — and the best from the West; every cuisine you can think of. But almost nowhere combines the two."

The local cuisine is Cantonese. What it lacks in fire and spice, it makes up for in lightness and freshness. So fresh that, at any of the fish restaurants strung along the harbour on the Sai Kung peninsula, you will be invited to inspect each course of your seafood

dinner, wriggling in its black plastic sack, before it is prepared. But daily fare is traditionally vegetarian, and low-fat. Mr Mark explains: "We reserve meat and fish for special occasions and family celebrations."

In line with colonial tradition elsewhere (perhaps initially born of a fear of food poisoning), a fashion for eating in hotel restaurants has flourished among the Hong Kong elite. "They're absolutely the focus of social life," Mr Christian says. In total, annual restaurant revenues top £4 billion.

The culmination of the culinary year is the Hong Kong Food Festival, a bright idea dreamed up by the tourist association's hyperactive marketing department, to fill hotel rooms in what was then the quiet month of March. The fact that there is no longer an "off-season" in booming Hong Kong has not extinguished the enthusiasm of chefs and hoteliers.

Indeed, according to German chef Joseph Budde, of the spectacular harbour-side Grand Hyatt, "Hong Kong is now top of the wish-list of places to work for chefs from all over the globe. Chefs here are constantly striving ever harder to be the best, because we know people out there want our jobs."

Mr Christian, three times a judge of the Hong Kong Food Festival Culinary Awards, expands: "It's quite simple. The availability of inexpensive labour enables chefs, who have a brigade of helpers, to prepare elaborate dishes and offer extensive menus which chefs in the West can only dream about." (In the kitchen of the Mandarin, meanwhile, one grand old Chinese chef, who cannot sign his name in

any language, effortlessly remembers the most complicated French recipes, down to the black pepper.)

The realisation that people in Hong Kong have an attitude to food quite different from ours in the West struck me with one crunch of the prize-winning first course on this year's awards dinner menu: honey-roast paddy sparrow (from the menu of five medal-winning Western dishes, no less). Actually, it was delicious, if a little unsettling to overseas visitors more used to feeding sparrows than eating them. But it certainly provides a due to the sheer inventiveness which has, over the last decade, transformed Hong Kong into a Mecca for chefs and foodies alike.

For the 17 days of the annual festival, there are food-related guided tours of the bustling markets or tea shops, a bargain-basement Fun and Food Fiesta is staged in the streets, and top-of-the-range *prix fixe* "Hong Kong Dinner Dates" in Eastern and Western-style restaurants enable chefs to show off virtuoso skills. "There is, quite simply, no food festival to rival it anywhere on earth," says Mr Mark, who chairs the judging panel. And because the culinary awards are restricted to home-based talent, they kindle not only a spirit of competitiveness between chefs, but ensure that no self-respecting Hong Kong chef gets caught in a cookery rut.

When Eastern cuisine does encounter Western — as in the case of the paddy sparrow — this can come as something of a culinary culture shock. But as Mr Christian explains, "there's simply a different attitude in Hong Kong. There is a saying there: 'We eat anything that flies except an aeroplane, anything with four legs except table and chairs.'"

Visitors to Hong Kong — whatever the time of year — would be well advised, then, to put their preconceptions about food on hold for the duration. And prepare to have their palates exquisitely begoggled.

For details of the Hong Kong Food Festival or holidays in Hong Kong, contact the Hong Kong Tourist Association at 4th/5th Floors, 125 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EA (071-930 4775). Josephine Fairley flew to Hong Kong with Cathay Pacific Airways.



Pile 'em high: Hong Kong can offer the finest Eastern ingredients — and the best from the West

FATHERS DAY

A dish to take you to bed?

With the market awash with species from around the world, shellfish are growing in culinary status. They lend a certain sophistication to the table, but beyond this, their diversity makes generalisation difficult. They range from the most pricey, such as lobster and oysters, to some of the cheapest, such as our humble brown shrimp.

Like most types of fish, high in protein and low in saturated fat, shellfish are a good source of nutrition. The protein content, in say, boiled prawns is on a par with baked cod and roast chicken — about 23g per 100g. But for some people shellfish are a source of hazard: pregnant women often avoid them, and seafood poisoning is a notorious danger.

Recently reports of high cholesterol counts have also scared some people off. "Shellfish tend to be rich in cholesterol: prawns, for example, have 80mg of cholesterol per 100g, compared with beef which has 59mg and chicken which has almost half, at 43mg," says Alison Evennett of the British Nutrition Foundation. But this is no reason to avoid them. "Since most shellfish are low in fat, they do not present much of a threat to the arteries," she says.

Stephen Davies, a nutrition expert, points out: "Shellfish are a key source of mucopolysaccharides, a rubbery substance that has been shown to provide cardiovascular protection."

"Various heavy metals, particularly mercury and cadmium, are concentrated in shellfish. However, they also have high levels of zinc, which counteract the negative effect of cadmium."

Among its many functions, zinc is essential for synthesising testosterone, and this may be the basis of the aphrodisiac claims for shell-

FOOD SPY

Aphrodisiac or poison? Shellfish are surrounded by myths

fish. Casanova was reputed to have scoffed 50 oysters a day. "The zinc might well have helped to sustain his libido," says Dr Davies, "but to say shellfish are therefore aphrodisiacs would be pushing it."

By far the biggest seller is the prawn. The terms prawn and shrimp cover a whole cocktail of species that basically divide in two: cold-water prawns have a harder shell, to withstand northern waters, and are some of the tastiest seafood; warm-water varieties are found in the Mediterranean and the tropics. Most

slightly sweet taste, while the dark body meat has a stronger, savoury flavour. Lobster and crab are best bought live — check that they seem lively and their limbs are intact. A good crab should be heavy for its size and there should be no sound of water when you shake it.

The round native oyster has been cultivated here since Roman times and was once a staple for urban Londoners; but in recent decades pollution and disease have depleted native stocks. Most oysters eaten in Britain are farmed



shrimps and prawns are sold pre-cooked and precooked, as with other precooked foods, these must be carefully handled to prevent contamination.

At the top of the scale, the lobster's succulent flesh is probably without parallel. The blue-black native lobster, which lives in the Atlantic and the North Sea, is the gourmet's choice. It is distinct from those found in Canadian lobster pots, which have a greenish-brown, slightly softer shell, and account for about half the UK market.

Crab, on the other hand, is a relatively inexpensive delicacy that provides two types of flesh: the white leg meat has a sharp,

less than 24 hours once opened).

Cleanliness is a key factor, as most shellfish are scavengers and inhabit the more polluted inshore waters. Filter feeders, such as mussels, oysters and clams, are the worst offenders as they take in indiscriminately what they do not use, letting what they do not use pass right through them. Crustaceans (those with limbs, such as lobsters and prawns) are less of a concern, as we do not eat the entire creature.

Michael Gormley, a London-based GP, believes there is little to fear from eating shellfish: "It is widely known that shellfish can cause food poisoning because they like to feed near sewers, which may carry nasty germs. However, poisoning is far from common." This is partly the result of strict legislation requiring dealers in live shellfish to monitor for salmonella, bacteria and toxicity levels.

Choose shellfish only from reputable sources, then be vigilant about storage: fridges should be kept well below 4°C to keep bacteria at bay. Ideally, buy shellfish as Molly Malone sold them — alive, alive-o. "Except for cockles," says Chris Lettich, chief inspector of the Fishmongers' Company. "These are sold cooked, as they traditionally come from more polluted areas and can't stand much handling. Above all, never buy shellfish dead but uncooked, as they decay right away."

Generally, because their flavour is delicate and fades with overcooking, shellfish should be served *au naturel* or with light accompaniments. When in doubt, ask your fishmonger for more specific storage and cooking advice. In this way, you can safely find a shellfish to whet every appetite.

ANNIE RANKIN

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The Criterion, the marble and gilt extravaganza at London's hub hailed by some as the "most beautiful dining room in England", is now offering choices of two courses from Bill Baker's eclectic Italian-American *la carte* menu for just £10 a head, any time, all day, every day. Robin Young writes. Noon-11.30pm Mon-Sat; noon-10.30am on Sundays.

TO COVENTRY
Beth's
3a Downshire
Hill, London
NW3 071-435 3549

Chef Beth Coventry, in partnership with Angela Collins (also of Newton's in Abbeville Road, Clapham), has taken over and renamed what was Keats in Hampstead, where she promises free-ranging English food with daily revised menus and modestly priced set lunches (two courses and

RESTAURANT WATCH

coffee, £7.50). A *la carte* reckons £20 to £25 including wine. Beth's is open seven days a week. Mon-Fri 12.30-3pm, weekends 12.30-11.30pm without interruption.

RESPECTED VEG
Hollington House
Church Road, Woolton Hill, Newbury, Berks (0635 255100)

Egon Ronay tells me he

enjoyed dinner at this country house hotel run by John and Penny Guy, who used to have the only Relais & Châteaux hotel in Australia. Their chef, Richard Lovett, came with them. Ronay says he seldom saw vegetables treated with such respect. The wine list includes exceptional mature Australian classics. Lunch two courses £12.50, three £15.50; dinner two £18.50, three £24.50. Ale reckons £45 including wine. Open seven days a week, 12.30-2pm and 7-4.30pm.

مركز من الأصل

The late, great supper

Frances Bissell on how to feed friends after a night out — without a takeaway



LATE-night entertaining need not mean dial-a-pizza, chicken tikka takeaway, or a sur-reptitious supermarket packet. With a modicum of planning and preparation, you can produce a feast of home-made food as easily as if you had spent the whole evening cooking.

There are several ways of organising late suppers. The easiest is to plan cold food, all of which you prepare in advance, with a pâté, crudites and humous, or potted smoked fish to start. Move on to a platter of cold roast beef, a jellied fish terrine, *boeuf à la mode* or cold barbecued chicken joints, served with a bowl of salad leaves. Finish with a fruit flan, chocolate mousse, trifle or other cold pud. Not entirely welcoming is it, unless it is a warm, tropical night outside? So keep to the basic plan, but add one or two warm notes — hot toast or pitta bread with the starter, for example, a hot consommé after it, and perhaps warm potato salad with the main course, or a hot custard sauce or sabayon with the fruit flan.

Another way of feeding your friends and family after the theatre is to stick to cold food to top and tail the meal, but have a hotpot cooking at the lowest oven setting. Chilli con carne, beef in beaufort, lamb tagine or an Italian *stracotta* of beef are all favourites for such an occasion, because it means I can use the tougher, less expensive cuts of meat which demand long slow cooking.

Let this main dish dictate the rest of the meal and the wines. If you choose to cook a spicy lamb tagine, for example, continue the theme with yoghurt and cucumber salad, olives and salted almonds, and humous served with hot pitta bread. Sliced oranges, mint leaves and chopped dates make a refreshing fruit salad to finish the meal, and a crisp rosé will accompany it perfectly. A *stracotta* can be preceded by Parma ham served with wedges of fennel, and followed with a creamy tiramisu, while a

chunky barolo or chianti will go well with it, depending on what you have cooked the beef in.

There is another way of feeding hungry theatre-goers. Again, I have the starter and pud made in advance, but then I turn to fast food for the main course. Having done my preparation earlier in the day — such as peeling potatoes, dicing, slicing or skewering meat or fish and preparing vegetables — there are a number of dishes I can have ready in little more than 20 minutes. Top of my list is fried or grilled calves' liver with sage, for which creamy mashed potatoes is the best accompaniment.

Rice is the best accompaniment to two other long-time Bissell favourites, one a dish of lamb's liver quickly cooked in white wine and olive oil, and the other grilled skewers of fish and apple. But first, something to spread on crostini.

Ricotta and dried tomato crostini
(serves 6 to 8)
1/2 lb/230g fresh ricotta
6 to 8 pieces dried tomato, chopped
freshly ground black pepper

If the tomato is very leathery, first soak for 15 minutes in hot water, and then drain and dry. Put the ricotta and tomato in the food processor, and process until smooth. Alternatively, by hand, cream the ricotta, finely chop the tomato, and mix. Season with black pepper. The tomato will probably add enough salt, if sundried. If not, season as appropriate. Spread on hot toast or grilled polenta, and serve immediately. This cream is very good spooned into chichory and radicchio leaves.

Grilled skewers of fish with apple
(serves 4)
1 lb/455g firm-fleshed fish, off the bone, such as monkfish or cod
2 crisp dessert apples
4tbsp unsweetened apple juice
2tbsp toasted sesame oil
seasoning
1tbsp toasted sesame seeds

Cut the fish into bite-sized chunks. Core and quarter the apple, and cut

each quarter into two or three pieces, horizontally. Mix the apple juice and sesame oil together in a bowl. Add the fish and apple, coating it well with the marinade. Season lightly, and thread the fish and apple alternately on small skewers. Place under a moderate to hot grill for about eight minutes, turning them and basting them occasionally with the marinade. When done, arrange the skewers on one large dish or on individual serving places on a bed of rice. Sprinkle with toasted sesame seeds.

Liver in white wine
(serves 6)
1 1/2 lb/680g lamb's liver
1/2 pt/70ml dry white wine
4tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 mild onion, peeled and thinly sliced
seasoning
fresh coriander leaves for garnish

This dish can be prepared and marinated the day before required. Remove any piping from the liver. Cut first into slices and then into strips about the size and thickness

of your little finger. Place in a bowl with the wine and olive oil and sliced onion. Mix well to thoroughly coat the liver. Leave to marinate overnight, or for at least several hours.

Take a heavy casserole with a lid, and preferably with handles, and heat this on the stove. Drain the liver, reserving the marinade. Put the liver in the hot casserole, perhaps doing it in two or three batches so as not to crowd the pan, which would lower the temperature and the meat would steam instead of searing. Put the lid on and shake the casserole vigorously. Return it to the heat to cook for not more than three to four minutes. Remove the liver and keep it warm. Proceed in the same way until you have cooked all the meat. When you have removed the last of the liver from the casserole, pour in the marinade, boil until reduced by half, and pour this over the liver. Serve immediately after seasoning lightly and stirring in chopped coriander leaves, if you have them. I like to cook this next dish in a

round earthenware dish, from which I also serve it. For those of you who have become accustomed to small, bloody noisettes and medallions, this slow-cooked lamb will be a revelation. It has become a favourite Sunday lunch dish.

Spiced braised shoulder of lamb
(serves 4-6)
3 1/2 lb/1.35kg shoulder of lamb
1tbsp olive oil
1 onion, peeled and thinly sliced
3 cloves
piece of cinnamon
1tbsp coriander seeds
1tbsp ground cumin
1/2 pt/140ml red wine
1/4 pt/140ml lamb or other meat stock
salt, pepper

Remove the skin from the lamb and cut off the shank if it will not fit your cooking pot. Heat the olive oil and lightly brown the onion in a frying pan. Transfer to a casserole. Brown the meat and put it on top of the onion. Lightly fry the spices and put with the meat. Deglaze the pan

with wine, season lightly, add the stock, bring to the boil and pour over the meat. Cover with a lid or foil and put in the bottom half of the oven. Bake for about four hours at 125C/275F, gas mark 1. The meat will be tender enough to eat with a spoon and will have yielded a wonderfully perfumed broth. I serve this dish in soup plates with rice or potatoes. Sometimes I add a few blanched vegetables, such as beans and asparagus, for the last 20-30 minutes or so.

I had originally planned to include the St Emilion au chocolat in my series on classic French dishes last year, but ran out of time. The dish is essentially a charlotte, but using macarons, for which the town of St Emilion is famous, instead of sponge fingers. Ratafias or amaretti can be used in their place.

St Emilion au chocolat
(serves 6 to 8)
2 free-range egg yolks, lightly beaten
1/4 pt/140ml single cream
1/2 lb/110g unsalted butter

1/2 lb/110g icing sugar, sifted
1/2 lb/230g best quality dark chocolate
12 amaretti or 18 ratafias
brandy, rum, coffee liqueur or orange liqueur

Please note that this recipe uses uncooked eggs.

Put the eggs in a bowl. Bring the cream just to the boil and whisk it with the egg. Leave to cool. Cream the butter and sugar until light. Break up the chocolate and put in a bowl over hot water. Melt it, and then remove from the heat and allow to cool. Beat the custard mixture into the melted chocolate, and then the creamed butter and sugar, mixing until smooth. Dip the biscuits in the brandy, rum or liqueur, and place in the bottom of small ramekins. Spoon the chocolate cream over the top, and smooth the surface. Chill overnight or for at least 12 hours for the flavours to ripen.

Alternatively, a deep, rather narrow glass bowl or soufflé dish can be used, with alternate layers of the biscuits and chocolate cream.

The £100, £500 and £1,000 cellar

BUILDING A WINE CELLAR: 4

EXACTLY what and how long is the thorniest question for the simple cellarer. Judging from my postbag, plenty of people are still guilty of hoarding bottles way beyond their drink-up date, foolishly expecting a dreary wine to turn into nectar after decades. As a rough rule of thumb, cellaring any wine priced at less than £3.50 a bottle now is a waste of time. These wines have been specifically vinified, using the most modern methods, to be drunk young, when they are fresh, fruity and appealing. All they do with age is to break up, losing colour, fruit and flavour.

route. Indeed, supermarkets such as Sainsbury's now advise customers on the label on the back of the bottle to drink up the contents soon, often within six months of purchase.

Nevertheless, most modern wine drinkers tend to open their best bottles too early rather than too late. The wine trade is partly to blame for this, as most wines are shipped and sold here long before they are ready to drink. With interest rates high and storage facilities scarce and costly, it is no longer possible for them to mature wines for their customers to the peak of perfection. The only two outlets I know of that have a policy of keeping some of their wines to be sold only when they are mature are the Wine Society and Davison's. However, both have cut back this facility recently.

The other consideration about maturing wine is that wine drinkers' palates vary considerably. What may be bliss for your own might be over-the-hill for mine. The

only way you will have a chance of discovering your preferences is to buy a full case of each wine and experiment: drinking two bottles too early is less of a crisis when you know you have another ten to go. If you are lucky, your taste buds may veer towards those of the French, who are happy to drink even *cru classé* claret within a few years of its birth. If you are unlucky, you may discover that you share *le goût anglais*, preferring to give even lesser red Bordeaux at least a decade of age.

TO START everyone off I have put together three different cellars, at three different price levels, of wines which can all be ordered today in your high street. These need not be followed slavishly: just choose your favourite wines from among them. But make certain you have a balance between white and red, and sweet and dry. Consider, too, your friends' and family's preferences. There is no point in purchasing claret and red burgundy, if your household rarely drinks reds. Instead, think of purchasing an extra six bottles or a case of white burgundy or Bordeaux. However, do not be snuffy about the fine German wine I have chosen and the prestigious port. Both are delicious.

£100 cellar
Four bottles of 1990 Chianti Rufina, Bardia Bn, Grati, £3.99 each from the Thresher Group: £15.96
Four bottles of 1992 La Serr Chardonnay, £4.99 each from the Thresher Group: £19.96
Four bottles of 1989 Chateau La Vieille Cure, Ponsac, £7.45 each from Sainsbury's: £29.80
Four bottles of 1989 Falkenstein Hoberg Riesling Kabinett, Friedrich Wilhelm Gymnasium, £5.39 each from Victoria Wine: £21.56
One bottle of Sainsbury's non-vintage champagne, £11.95
Total: £99.23



A treat in store: Justerini & Brooks

afford to spend on it, every cellar needs as many bottles as you can manage of good ordinary white and red wines that are capable of improving for about 18 months to two years, but can also be drunk at once. Their presence in your cellar is primarily to prevent you from committing infanticide on your better bottles. So welcome the as yet fruity, upfront La Serr Chardonnay and savoury-spicy chianti. Also hail to a plummy Fronsac claret that will acquire some rich chocolatey flavours with age. Top sweet German wines such as the 1989 Falkenstein fill out with time, too, as will Sainsbury's splendid non-vintage champagne.

£500 cellar
12 bottles of 1990 Chianti Rufina Bardia Bn, Grati, £3.99 each from the Thresher Group: £47.88
12 bottles of 1992 La Serr Chardonnay, £4.99 each from Victoria Wine: £59.88
12 bottles of 1989 Chateau La Vieille Cure Ponsac, £7.45 each from Sainsbury's: £89.40
Six bottles of 1989 Falkenstein Hoberg Riesling Kabinett, Friedrich Wilhelm Gymnasium, £5.39 each from Victoria Wine: £32.34
Six bottles of 1990 white Chevalier

St Vincent, £6.99 each from Oddbins: £41.94
Six bottles of 1991 Bourgogne Blanc, Faveley, £8.99 each from Majestic Wine Warehouse: £53.94
Six bottles of 1991 Waipara Springs Pinot Noir, £9.49 each from Wine Rack: £56.94
Six bottles of 1990 Côte Rotie, Chaperot, £17.99 each from Oddbins: £107.94
Total: £490.26



TOP up your house white and red and better claret to a case of each for your £500 cellar. Add two more bottles of German wine and increase your white wine interest with an amazingly classy, oaky, dry white Bordeaux, Chevalier Saint Vincent that will plump up to show layers of rich, aromatic fruit with several more years in the cellar.

Faveley, as those readers who attended the Majestic Wine workshop will know, is a first-class burgundy house, and even its humble, citric 1991 Bourgogne Blanc needs time yet to show its full colours.

Try out the New World's celebrated red burgundy expertise with the glorious plummy 1991 Waipara from New Zealand.

Go back to the old with the extraordinary, dense, spicy 1990 Côte Rotie, a first-class Syrah from the Rhône that needs years yet to come round.

£1,000 cellar
12 bottles of 1990 Chianti Rufina, Bardia Bn, Grati, £3.99 each from the Thresher Group: £47.88
12 bottles of 1992 La Serr Chardonnay, £4.99 each from Victoria Wine: £59.88
12 bottles of 1989 Chateau La Vieille Cure, Ponsac, £7.45 each from Sainsbury's: £89.40
12 bottles of 1989 Falkenstein Hoberg Riesling Kabinett, £5.39 each from Victoria Wine: £64.68
Six bottles of 1991 Waipara Springs Pinot Noir, £9.49 each from Wine Rack: £56.94
Six bottles of 1990 Hautes Côtes de Beaune, Cave de Hautes Côtes, £6.55 each from Waitrose: £39.30
12 bottles of 1990 Côte Rotie, £17.99 each from Oddbins: £215.88
12 bottles of 1988 Clos du Marquis, St Julien, £14.69 each from the Thresher Group: £176.28
12 bottles of 1991 Bourgogne Blanc, Faveley, £8.99 each from Majestic: £107.88
12 bottles of 1990 white Chevalier St Vincent at £6.99 each from Oddbins: £83.88
Six bottles of 1983 Warre Port, £15.99 each from Majestic: £95.94
Total: £1037.94

Stay with your everyday drinking cases but top up your German bins with six more bottles.

Compare and contrast New World and Old World pinot noirs with six bottles of a fine red burgundy from a great vintage. Go up to a dozen of your spectacular Côte Rotie, white burgundy and Bordeaux.

Invest in 12 bottles of a starchy new claret, the second wine of St Julien's prestigious slow-maturing Chateau Léoville-Las-Cases from a fine year.

And finally lay down six bottles of Warre's dark, seltanic, keenly priced 1983 port from a great port house and a widely admired year. Unfortunately, this is not yet in stock at Majestic, but is expected in three weeks' time. It is well worth waiting for.

Cheers.

JANE MACQUITTY

BEST BUYS

- 1992 Allan Scott Marlborough Sauvignon, Lay & Wheeler, 6 Culver Street West, Colchester, Essex, £7.99
Fresh, elegant, zesty floral New Zealand sauvignon. Good with fish and white-meat dishes.
- 1991 Henschke Adelaide Croft Chardonnay, Lay & Wheeler, £11.24
I loved this rich, smoky, toasty chardonnay with masses of powerful Lenswood vineyard Australian fruit.
- 1992 Vin de Pays du Gers, An Loubet, Thresher Group, £2.99
Light, apple, marzipan-scented fruit, not great but worth £2.99.
- 1992 Tollyana Australian Riesling, Coonawarra, Thresher Group, £3.49
Drink this lively, flowery, lime-scented Riesling with sole Véronique.
- 1992 Domaine Tastary, Vin de Pays d'Oc, Thresher Group, £3.39
Good, dry summer rosé.

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History lessons in conservation: Stuart Page outside the Elizabethan cottages and dovecote that he is preparing to restore at Ightham Mote, in the Weald of Kent

Derelict homes to the manor reborn

If you happen to have a listed building in grave need of repair, Bea Cowan suggests taking some tips from an expert

A row of Elizabethan cottages deep in the Weald of Kent makes recommended viewing for anyone interested in conserving and restoring one of England's many threatened listed properties. With timber frame, traditional plaster, peg-tiled roof, 16th-century windows and a central dovecote, these buildings form a delightful row facing the gate tower of Ightham Mote, a historic manor house. The cottages' exterior only hints at the level of decay inside, where rotten beams, crumbling brickwork, loose plaster and original laths laid bare indicate imminent collapse.

Stuart Page, architectural advisor to the National Trust at Ightham Mote since 1988, welcomes the challenges ahead. "We have two responsibilities," he says. "One is to repair these cottages and install kitchens, bathrooms and insulation. The other is to respect the archaeological record and keep the character of the original as far as possible."

Over the next year Mr Page plans to fulfil both requirements. When completed the cottages will be made available as holiday accommodation, to help to recoup the costs of the project.

Ightham Mote, one of the few surviving medieval moated manor houses in the country, is unique for its record of continuous occupation since it was first built around 1340. It also presents an almost unbroken sequence of English architecture. A 13th-century Great Hall, Tudor chapel, Jacobean drawing-room and Victorian bathrooms all surround a central courtyard, approached over a moat and through a Tudor gate tower complete with crenellations.

Until recently the cottages, thought originally to have been stables on either side of the entrance to the Mote, may have seemed less important than the main house. New research, crucial before any conservation programme begins, reveals their complex history and role in the domestic economy of the Mote.

Written and pictorial records were studied before detailed examination with spade and trowel. A print dated 1842, showing farmyard activity nearby, supports the view that the buildings were not designed as cottages. Cows shown on the roofs on the south side suggest the traditional Kent east, or at least a structure designed to draw hot air upwards for drying purposes, an interpretation reinforced by the type of floor beams used.

A sequence of floor levels excavated in the northern pair of cottages reveals that they may have served alternately as laundry, brewhouse, bakehouse or workshop. Outside are signs of a Victorian greenhouse. Most importantly, it appears that the various buildings were added on at different stages as needs increased.

The dovecote over the entrance will be conserved as found. Detailed examination of the beams and interior show it was added to the original building, probably in the 17th century. The nesting boxes inside were installed in stages between the 17th and 19th centuries, as the need for the meat the birds provided increased - and a 3ft-deep accumulation of droppings on the floor points to a large number of birds. Research continues to decide the purpose of two moulded beams, buried within the masonry and unusually ornate for such a structure.

For anyone planning to conserve and restore listed domestic property, Mr Page has these suggestions.

1. Consult the local conservation officer for initial advice on the history of the building, its listed status, and how he regards the work you plan.
2. Initiate a thorough survey, then understand your building's shape, structure and history.
3. Discover its needs for maintenance and repair.
4. Decide whether your needs match the building's character and structure.
5. Seek proper advice from people with experience in the care of historic buildings. Client and advisor must feel compatible.
6. Decide on a budget, then allow a reasonable contingency sum for unexpected works.
7. Allow a budget for a cycle of repairs.
8. Remember that too much money can cause as much damage to historic buildings as too little.
9. Remember that the fundamental principle of conservation remains: minimum alteration with maximum retention.
10. Enjoy the undertaking.

As well as committing its own money, the National Trust is appealing for £950,000 towards the cost of the next phase of the conservation work, which includes further areas of the manor house as well as the Elizabethan cottages. The speed of progress will depend on money raised. Contributions may be sent to The National Trust Ightham Mote Appeal Fund, c/o Anne Whitley, National Trust Regional Office, Scotney Castle, Lambhastur, Kent TN3 8BJ.

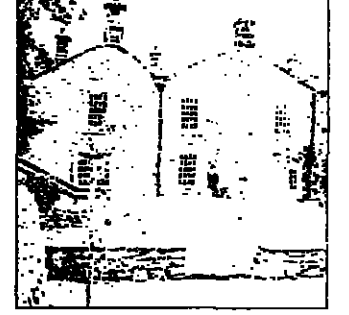
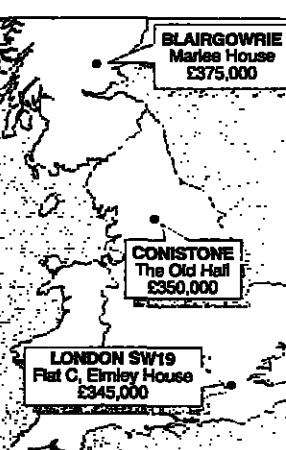
● Ightham Mote, 6m E of Sevenoaks, Kent. Open daily except Tuesday and Saturday, noon-5.30pm (Sundays and Bank Holidays, 11am-5.30pm).

Cheryl Taylor finds a Scottish loch, Yorkshire hills and a London flat



Scotland: Marlee House, Kinloch, Blairgowrie, Perthshire. Grade A listed country house in ten acres of gardens, mature woodland and paddocks, together with ownership of the 174-acre Marlee Loch, bordered by woodland and loch frontage of about 29 acres. Nine bedrooms, six bathrooms, four reception rooms, playroom, kitchen, laundry and cloakroom. Workshop, stores and garaging. About £375,000 (Knight, Frank & Rutley, 031-225 7105).

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Yorkshire: The Old Hall, Conistone. Grade II listed manor house set in 1 1/2 acres of gardens and paddocks, with far-reaching views of the surrounding hills. Six bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en-suite), three reception rooms and breakfast room with flagstone floors, kitchen, pantry and cloakroom. Double garage, loose box and snooker room. About £350,000 (Savills, 0904 620731).

London: Flat C, Elmley House, 81, Parkside, Wimbledon SW19. Luxury flat with large rooms on two floors of a detached mansion. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en-suite), shower-room, kitchen, utility area. Communal gardens. About £345,000 (John D. Wood, 081-944 7172).

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SPORTING LIFE

Where there's a wall

Indoor climbing is not quite Everest, Steven Downes reports, but at least it is there for everybody

In this age of virtual reality, there are few outdoor pursuits which cannot be found, in some shape or form, under a roof. Even windsurfing and motorbike scrambling have been brought indoors to some of Europe's hangar-like arenas.

Next Saturday marks the fortieth anniversary of the conquest of Everest, and in the intervening years mountaineering and rock climbing have continued as hazardous, often lonely, activities. Meanwhile, other sports have sought increasingly to gain popularity by offering participants a chance to "scale a personal Everest" — sportspeak for rising to a challenge — without the risks of injury, deforming

frostbite, even death, that confronted Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay on their trudge to the top of the world in 1953.

Climbing, too, has succumbed to this route to mass popularity: it has gone indoors. Even the most suburban of local sports centres or schools is able to recreate part of the side of a mountain: more than 400 centres now have climbing walls. Inevitably, people climb them because they're there.

Neal Kelly, 17, is one such recent convert. Six months ago a teacher at his south London school put him in front of a wall in an old squash court at Crystal Palace sports centre and invited him to scale it. "When I first started, I couldn't get up anything. But you can progress quickly," Neal says. He speaks of the wonderful challenges of the different types of wall: "It's not just up and down, you go sideways as well." There's the

DES JENSON

"vertical", the "slab", the "overhang", and then there's the "true overhang", which sees the climber clambering across the ceiling like a real-life Spiderman.

Indoor climbing is to rock climbing what dry-slope skiing is to hurtling down the piste: hardly ideal, but better than nothing at all when the conditions are against you. A typical sports centre's north face of the Eiger has bolts or bricks strategically jutting out for handholds and footholds. Most new walls are now purpose-built.

Anyone, fit or unfit, can join a wall-climbing session, and the activity is particularly popular with women. Fitness and weight tends to dictate the heights that can be scaled and the rate of progress made. "But it's unbelievably safe", Neal says. "There are no way you can fall."

Unlike some other sports, however, climbers learn one rule vital to their safety early on: there is only ever one person to blame for any injury.

One reason for the walls' popularity with sports centres is because they utilise otherwise unused space. At Brixton, for instance, the climbing wall is up the stairwell in the entrance hall. In six months, Neal has tried out various centres and rates the Foundry at Sheffield and the North London Commando Adventure Centre at Mile End among the best, for variety as well as severity.

Budding Chris Boningtons and Rebecca Stephenses visiting the Commando Centre's converted warehouse will find six rooms for climbing. About 1,000 climbers use the centre each week, taking advantage of facilities and instruction with something for all levels, from beginners' classes to the two areas dedicated as "ceiling rooms". The all-day (2pm-9pm) user's rate is just £2.

The Sheffield centre, opened less than 18 months ago, is about to welcome its 100,000th customer to the 7,000 sq ft facility in a disused foundry. It offers three main wall areas, including an introductory wall, a slab wall and a main competition wall, and all-day charges start at £3.

However, indoor climbing, or sport climbing, is creating tensions, and not just on nylon ropes. The popularity of sport climbing highlights the differences between traditionalists and radicals: those who enjoy climbing for its own sake and are prepared to take for ever to do it safely; and those who look for competition, for speed, who seem almost to be shrieking: "Look, no ropes!"

Indoor climbing should complement "real" rock climbing, honing the skills and techniques on winter evenings, ready for use in the great outdoors. Indoor walls can also introduce to climbing those for whom mountains would otherwise be a distant prospect. "I think it's best to start outside, to give you that sense of scale," Neal says. "If you're 300ft up, you're not going to make a jump that you might when 20ft up an indoor wall."

But really, it's a different sport indoors.

Agreement has been reached with the British Mountaineering Council that no climbing competitions will be staged on crags or cliffs outdoors, for safety and to prevent unnecessary damage to the environment. As one expert puts it: "You cannot beat outdoor climbing, but the obvious outlet for indoor climbing is to have competitions, where you're competing against each other rather than competing against the environment."

On the Continent, charismatic, flamboyant climbers such as Isabelle Patissier, the 1991 women's World Cup winner, have developed the indoor sport to the extent of attracting large audiences. It is gripping stuff. Competitions take two main forms: speed climbing (a sort of "Last to the top's a sissy" race, more popular in other European countries than here), and technical climbing, where routes to the "summit" are marked to eliminate certain holds, and points are scored for "faults", with the winner decided by the number of attempts or by the best height reached.

All that, however, merely shows the heady heights that can be reached. Sherpa Tenzing once said that Everest is the mountain that no bird can fly over; with indoor climbing, there is a whole range of personal Everests for you to scale.

Rosemary Verey, who helped the Prince of Wales



SIGHTS ON CHELSEA

Showtime for the nation of gardeners

Along with Royal Ascot, Henley, Wimbledon, Trooping the Colour and the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, the Chelsea Flower Show is one of our great annual traditions. Despite the blossoming of many other major national garden shows, Chelsea is still the queen, coming moreover at a perfect time, when the English garden is a lush and verdant paradise, and gardeners, after digging, sowing and planting out through spring and early summer, have a moment to tear themselves away from their borders.

The difficulty of buying tickets for Chelsea, the traditional extremes of the weather — one year stiflingly hot, the next awash with rain — and the discomfort of the crowds are offset by the feeling of camaraderie, and the knowledge that only the best is here.

Chelsea has its lighter moments, for both exhibitors and visitors. In 1984 I helped Highfield Nurseries with its gold-medal winning stand. Before the judging, someone re-



Fuchsia promise at Chelsea

marked: "That lovely gate made by Charles Verey won't open." We quickly changed the hinge. That evening, the Queen visited our stand. She passed through the now-functioning gate and asked: "What are you especially demonstrating?" When told that everything was edible, she smiled and said: "I don't think that woad is edible; you see, my governess taught me that the

ancient Britons dyed themselves blue with its juice."

The following year a blackbird made its nest in the foliage up one of the marquee poles inside the Grand Marquee. The ripe blueberries from our stand furnished it with a fine feast. A fellow exhibitor, Miss Havergal, founder of the Waterperry School of Horticulture, displayed Royal Sovereign strawberries, which always smelled so tempting that anyone offered a taste was considered honoured. However, there was one exception: a member of the royal party, on being invited to try one, quietly said, almost to himself: "Can't stand them myself, they ruin the taste of port."

Royalty has long taken a keen interest in Chelsea, visiting many of the stands and chatting with the exhibitors: shared interest and the desire to learn create a unique atmosphere. Chelsea is not, however, a family occasion — unlike some out-of-town shows, dogs and children are banned.

Chelsea has always attracted a wonderful mix. Stop a selec-

tion of people as they walk along the avenues and ask why they have come. One might be an elderly lady in brogues, who has tended her country village garden for many years, and for whom Peter Jones is the next port of call. Next will come a fashionable and enthusiastic young married couple with a tiny London plot, determined to discover new ideas. Another might be a young woman who has done a gardening course and wants to widen her repertoire of plants: another perhaps a writer hungry for copy, or a landscape gardener in search of a rare specimen.

Some arrive with their garden club, having travelled by coach since dawn, carrying bags soon to be filled with catalogues. The essence of Chelsea is unchanged: in May 1836 *The Gardener Magazine* wrote about a one-day RHS show at Chiswick: "The Principal part of the English Aristocracy are present and mix indiscriminately with the Tradesman, the Mechanic and the Gardener."

Based on what I saw at the show, her son, Charles Verey, and Andy Bailey.



Hit the heights: Neal Kelly reaches for a handhold at the Crystal Palace sports centre

YARDLEY ORIGINAL. A HEALTHY DOSE OF ORIGINALITY.

THOUGHT PROVOKING.

Social climbing

More information: Climbing indoors is governed by the British Mountaineering Council, Cranford House, Precinct Centre, Booth Street East, Manchester M13 9RZ (0161-273 5835), which also supervises outdoor climbing.

Recommended reading: *The Handbook of Climbing*, by Ian Peter and Allen Fyfe (Pelham Books), £30 including P&P, while *High* magazine is published monthly and can be bought from most large newsagents. A more specialist magazine is the bi-monthly *On The Edge*, which can be ordered by phoning 0298 73801. The BMC is soon to publish a gazetteer of all sports centres with climbing walls.

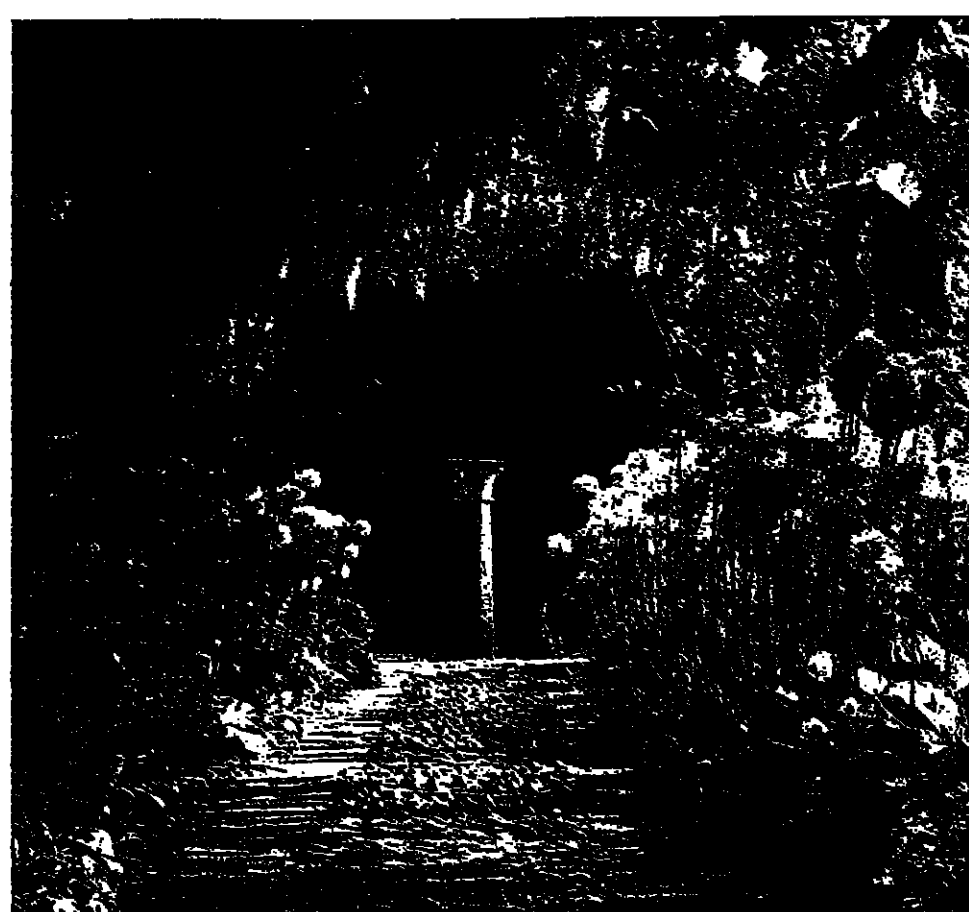
Equipment: According to Roger Payne, the BMC's training officer, "most walls have sections which don't require specialist shoes", so with trainers and tracksuits "anyone can turn up and sensibly see what you can do", but he advises that no under-16s should climb without adult supervision, and that all first-time climbers should seek expert advice or an introductory course supervised by someone who holds a BMC Single Pitch Supervisor's award.

Safety: "Adventure climbing is a risk activity," Mr Payne says. "Nobody who goes climbing can ignore the fact that they might fall, but because of this, people approach the sport in a very safe way." Walls have to be built to a safety specification, and there may be ropes provided to break any fall, but Mr Payne warns against the reliance on mats to jump on to, sprained ankles, and worse, often result from leaps to the ground, when it is far safer, having climbed up a wall, to climb down



les to create parts of the Highgrove gardens, sounds a fanfare for the 1993 Chelsea Flower Show

and the Prince of



Golden days looking along the laburnum walk planted with allium at Barnsley House

■ **Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Show, Royal Hospital Grounds, Chelsea, SW3** runs from Tuesday May 25 to Friday 28. Arrival without a pre-booked ticket will result in disappointment: no tickets are sold at the gate. The credit card hotline closes on May 25 (071-379 4443).

■ It is best to go by public transport: the ground is ten minutes from Sloane Square underground station, or use buses 11, 137, or a special bus service from Victoria bus station every ten minutes. People are advised not to travel by car but, if you must, try parking at Battersea Park car-park (£7 a day): a free regular minibus service operates between this car-park and the showground.

■ Rosemary Verey is supplying the plants for the Crowther of Syon Lodge stand at the Chelsea flower show this year, and she will be at the show on Monday and Tuesday.

■ Rosemary Verey's garden at Barnsley House, Barnsley, Gloucestershire is open from



Table talk: Charles Verrey with the furniture he designs

10am-6pm every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday throughout the year.

■ The showroom in Barnsley House itself is open Monday to Friday 9.30am-5.30pm, and Saturday 10.30am-5.30pm; New garden furniture and antique

country furniture are displayed here. For further information on Barnsley House GDF (Garden and Decorative Furniture) contact Charles Verrey on 0285 740561; catalogues available. Charles Verrey is displaying on stand number SR31 at Chelsea.



You will, of course, meet these people just as well at one of the newer regional theatres, Malvern or Holker, or at Hampton Court, but none of these can evoke the magic of Chelsea.

Other grounds are more spacious, the car parking easier, but true gardeners always want to get to the Royal Hospital. After all it is a bit, and for *habitus* part of fun is knowing where to find the wonderful clematis, alpinas, the wild flowers, to make a bee-line for the monument site in the centre of the marquee, the most prestigious but demanding position in the garden.

In the past few years the RHS has limited the numbers, so there is not quite the same once was. It is still wild, but even in the midst of the throng there is time to meander, and to plan how to translate a particular effect one's own garden.

For professionals Chelsea is a spur and an inspiration.

Although Chelsea is a showcase for garden firms displaying everything from compost makers to design skills to furniture to plants, any feeling of commercialism is overwhelmed by the whole-hearted enthusiasm of the exhibitors, and the heady scent of the plants in the marquees.

During the preceding week, the press builds to an exciting peak when the tranquil Royal Hospital grounds are invaded by workmen and women, their lorriesloads of equipment, rocks, telephones and telephone lines, duck boards and plants. Sleep is lost as the work force digs, plants, and builds waterfalls, elaborate fountains, massive rock gardens, and even once a seaside garden complete with pump-propelled lapping waves. Right up to the last moment, just hours before VIPs and RHSS judges arrive on Monday, exhausted exhibitors are primping and preening their gardens and stands.

The story of Chelsea starts in 1910, when the president of the Royal Horticultural Soci-

ety, Sir Trevor Lawrence, suggested a Royal International Horticultural Exhibition. The replay of the held in Kensington in 1866. From 1888 the RHS had held its annual Temple Show in the gardens of the inner Temple on the Embankment at Charing Cross, but his new exhibition was to be run by a separate committee, with the Duke of Portland as its president and King George V, Queen Mary and Queen Alexandra as patrons. With 1,407 applications for space, the Temple site was clearly too small, and so 28 acres were eventually rented from the commissioners of the Royal Hospital.

The first exhibition staged at Chelsea opened on May 22, 1912, in perfect weather; when it closed eight days later, 178,000 visitors had flocked to the grounds, and it had made a profit of £2,668 2s 5d. So Chelsea became the Royal Horticultural Society's annual showground, with three times the room and almost twice the number of exhibitors.

ing fashion, and Chelsea has seen all the swings of the pendulum. Nowadays topiary is all the rage, and neat clipped box has returned as a favourite; in 1912 Mr Cutbush of Highgate exhibited his range of Cut Bushes in box and yew, and his standard clipped Portulac laurels.

At the end of the Chelsea Flower Show there is a sense of huge sadness and loss among those who design and build the gardens, as their ephemeral masterpieces are dismantled, while for the public this is often a golden opportunity to buy part of the exhibit or some of the plants — in the 1920s the Prince of Wales even bought a whole rock garden for his estate at Fort Belvedere.

Although the pensioners in their uniforms may stroll in the grounds of the Royal Hospital every day, I remember during one show hearing one of them say: "I wish it was like this all year round." But Chelsea's magic is its evanescent quality. We know it will be back, to delight us and the pensioners, next year.

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The scent of a success story

Francesca Greenoak relishes new English roses crossbred for ancient and modern properties

Thousands of new rose varieties appear annually from nurseries worldwide, but there is only one nursery whose offerings I watch out for with real anticipation. This is David Austin, a Midlands family firm in Altrich, near Wolverhampton, whose perseverance and creativity has brought us a beautiful new rose group, unofficially known as English roses.

It was Mr Austin's ambition to "combine the form, character, scent and growth of old roses with the repeat-flowering and wider colour range of modern roses", through the skilled crossing of ancient and modern types. During the 1960s rose growing was a passionate hobby for Mr Austin. Now the nursery firm that bears his name is a thriving business, employing a close-knit small team including his son, also David, and his daughter, Claire. Their roses have caught the imagination of gardeners all over the world, and they can expect to sell more than 10,000 favourites such as *Heritage*, with its beautifully formed bluish-pink blooms, the richly scented apricot-pink *Evelyn*, or damask-like *Mary Rose*.

Yellow English roses such as the amber *Golden Celebration*, Graham Thomas, and pale lemon *The Pilgrim* are subjects of particular pride, says David junior, because "true yellows were not part of the range of old roses, so we feel our introductions have made a significant contribution to rose growing". I was intrigued to learn that they apply both the latest technology and ancient skills.

Some of the work is done with rose tissue in laboratories, but much is done manually in the nursery. They apply the selected pollen to the receptor rose twice over, not with a brush but with the tip of a finger — a method they find to be more sensitive to changes in texture, and so more successful. This year

David Austin is introducing five new roses, which can be seen this week for the first time by the gardening public at Chelsea. I shall be looking out for *St Swithun*; profits from the sales of this delicately pink rose will contribute to the Winchester Cathedral fund. *Tradescant* is a wine-crimson rose, said to have a "powerful old-rose fragrance", named both for the famous 17th-century gardener and the trust of the same name which runs the Museum of Garden History at Lambeth.

English roses, now securely on the rose map, are grown in gardens from Japan, where they are very popular, to Australia and throughout Europe. Though the earlier cultivars had exquisitely beautiful flowers, some were criticised for making somewhat lanky plants, a fault the Austins now feel they have got the better of by making foliage, form and vigour a priority in the breeding programme.

Claire Austin, who is relaunching the Austin herbaceous plant mail order catalogue this year, has been influenced by Graham Stuart Thomas, the rosarian and garden adviser to the National Trust. Mr Thomas did much to promote the growing of roses not on their own, in still little lists, but in flowing association with other plants such as foxgloves, hardy geraniums, and plants with grey or silvery foliage.

The garden attached to the nursery provides a living catalogue of the 900 rose cultivars and species the Austins stock. A large range is good for business, and a source both of inspiration and of future breeding stock. This year they are making a new area of garden which will display all their English roses interwoven with herbaceous plants.

David Austin Roses, Bowling Green Lane, Altrich, near Wolverhampton WV7 3HB (0902 373931). Informative handbook/catalogue free on application.



Blooming ambition: David Austin and a rose named after his daughter-in-law, Jayne

WEEKEND TIPS

- Keep a sharp eye out for red spider mite in greenhouses and conservatories; regular watering and a humid atmosphere discourage them.
- Stake border plants while small.
- Hoe when the weather is dry. It is most effective in killing weeds.
- Hang a pheromone codling moth trap (such as Trappit) in apple trees, if you are bothered by this pest.
- Prune out die-back on plums, gages and peach trees, cutting the branches back until the wood looks clean.

BEST BUYS

IT is now reasonably safe to put tubs and hanging baskets outdoors in most places without fear of frost. Plants to look out for are pelargoniums and petunias (both of which will survive dry conditions), daisies and verbenas. All of these now come in both upright and trailing cultivars; the former are better for pots and troughs, the latter for hanging baskets, although they may be mixed. The blue *convolvulus Sabatius* and daisy-like *Fetida* go well with pinks and whites. Use as large a container as is practicable to give the plants a better chance of thriving.



Beginning today, a weekly trawl by Derwent May along the book shelves

● **Life and drink:** Peter Paterson's biography of Lord George Brown, *Tired and Emotional* (Chato £20), gives you all the best anecdotes — and the chance to bring out your own hoary old George story at dinner. "More at home when dealing with Brown's weaknesses than with his strengths," said Roy Jenkins in the *Observer*. But that's why it's selling.

● **Fallen hero:** In the last few weeks Stephen Glover has written so many severe articles about his former colleague, Andreas Whittam Smith of the *Independent*, that you may feel you have already read his book about that newspaper, *Paper Dreams* (Corgi £17.99). Don't be hasty: there are further depths of skullduggery charted here. "Magnificent examples of moral corruption," said Sir Peregrine Worsthorne in the *Evening Standard*, chortling at the iniquities of high-minded liberals.

● **For the faithful:** Kenneth Baker's *Faber Book of Conservatism* (£17.50) is an anthology showing that everything best in Britain is Conservative. "Conservatives are fun people," agreed Sir Alastair Burnet in the *Sunday Times* — while the *Observer* reviewer felt he had been "smeared with something nasty".

● **More Marilyn:** Who is putting Donald Spoto's *Marilyn Monroe* (£17.99) on the best-seller list? It must be those readers who prefer the dull truth to the glamorous fiction.

● **Wise buy:** The best new reading is almost 150 years old: *The Letters of Charles Dickens, 1853-1855* (Oxford £85). Peter Ackroyd in *The Times* thought that these letters were like miniature novels, and that the edition as a whole was "the finest collection of letters ever produced in this country".



Bookshop of the week: For the faithful: Hatchards in Piccadilly.

West Yorkshire: Ling

Beaches, Ling Lane, Scarforth, Leeds off the Leeds to Wetherby road. Woodland garden with shrubs, ferns and rhododendrons. Plant sales, £1.50, child free. Open tomorrow (May 23), 2-5pm.



Oxford: Headington

gardens (E Oxford, off London Road, 75m W of ring road). Five gardens including the prize-winning back garden at 2 Forman Close, only a quarter of an acre on three levels with wisteria, bearded

irises and roses; Mary Marlborough Lodge, an easy-maintenance garden owned by Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre; the semi-formal, Mediterranean style garden at 40 Osler Road, with dry-stone plants and secluded 1 Stoke Place, pools, shrubs and flower beds within old stone walls. Plant sales. Combined ticket £1.60, child free. Open tomorrow (May 23), 2-6pm.

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THEATRE

LONDON

THE CHANGELING: Michael Attenborough's vivid and lusty production from Stratford, with Cheryl Campbell and Malcolm Storry bring into view.

THE PIRATES: Barrow Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Previews tonight, Mon, 7.15pm; opens Tues, 7pm; then in repertoire. (S)

CITY OF ANGELS: Top quality Larry Gelbart/UCB musical. *Princess of Wales*. Coventry Street, W1 (071-839 5972). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

CRAZY FOR YOU: Thrillingly staged Gerstman. Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (071-734 8851). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm. (S)

THE GIFT OF THE GORGON: Stunning performance by Judi Dench in Peter Shaffer's RSC success. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 3pm.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST: Maggie Smith commands the brittle world of lost handbags in this elegant revival. Aldwych, WC2 (071-838 6404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

THE LAST YANKEE: Subtle and touching Arthur Miller premiere: Margot Leicester, Peter Dawson lead a quartet of troubled Americans. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-838 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm. (S)



All-consuming: Cheryl Campbell, *The Changeling*

LEONARDO: Musical about that painting with Paul Collins and Jane Arden playing "Leonardo" and "Lisa".

Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (071-930 8800). Previews from Wed, 8pm; opens June 3, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Tues, 3pm and Sat, 4.30pm.

ROMEO AND JULIET: Joe Dorn and Joanna Roth play the star-crossed couple in Michael Bogdanov's production for English Shakespeare Company, in London after a successful tour.

Lyric Hammersmith, King Street, W6 (081-741 2311). Previews from Mon, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7pm; Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. (S)

THE SHOWMAN: Alan Bates is clever and funny as Thomas Bernhard's self-obsessed actor touring alpine villages but the play does not amount to much.

Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-369 4404). Mon-Fri, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. (S)

SWEENEY TODD: Sondheim's musical tribute to a victim of society who became the first stasher hero. Alan Armstrong and Julia Michaels head a fine cast in Declan Donnellan's production. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-628 2252). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm; opens June 2, 7pm; then in repertoire. (S)

REGIONAL

BIRMINGHAM: Bernard Horrell in the title role of *Volpone* with Gerard Murphy as his unscrupulous servant, Mosca. B1 Alexander sets his production in the self-indulgent 1890s. Birmingham Rep, Centenary Square (021-236 4455). Previews from Fri, 7.30pm; opens May 31, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; some mats on Thurs, 2.30pm and Sat, 3pm. (S)

SOUTHAMPTON: Timothy West plays a jaded Irish actor offered a chance of fame as an American evangelist in Brian Phelan's *Herself*. Tour follows and maybe London. Nutfield, University Road (0703 671771). Previews tonight, Mon, 7.30pm; opens Tues, 7.30pm; then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm. (S)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: One of a pair of Verelans plays: David Calder plays *Shylock* in *The Merchant of Venice*, with Penny Downie as Portia. David Thacker directs. Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789 256253). Previews from Thurs, 7.30pm; opens June 3, 7pm; then in repertoire with *King Lear*. (S)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: The RSC's first go at *Golden*: David Troughton plays both *The Venetian Twins* in a production by Michael Bogdanov. Swan (0789 256253). Previews from Thurs, 7.30pm; opens June 4, 7pm; then in repertoire with *Murder in the Cathedral*. (S)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 18

EPIPHYTE

(c) A plant that grows upon another plant, usually restricted to those which derive only support (and not nutrition) from the Greek *epi* plants on which they grow, i.e. not parasitic. From the Greek *epi* upon + *phuton* a plant. "While the colonies of France which were epiphytic, having no existence apart from the source from which they sprang."

SAXIFICOUS

(b) Turning to rock or stone, from the Latin *saxum* a rock + *facere* to make, the OED has only *saxifical*. *Hadrian VII* by Fr. Rolfe (Frederick Baron Corvo): "Talcryn, Whitehead, were as though they had seen the saxifical head of the Medoysa."

DISPLAT

(a) To do out of its place or place, to upbraid. Hakewell, *Apologia*, 1627: "Which of these would not rather choose that the state should be in combustion than his hair be displaced?"

ABRIN

(a) A highly poisonous proteid contained in the jequirity bean, *Abrus precatorius*, from the modern Latin *Abrus*: "Messrs Warden and Waddell published in Calcutta during the present year [1884] a large number of observations on the jequirity poison. They have proved that the active principle is a proteid — abrin — closely allied to native albumen."

FILM

THE ABYSS: SPECIAL EDITION (12): Twenty-eight missing minutes restored to the grandiose, handsome fantasy about divers tending a stricken sub. James Cameron directs Ed Harris. MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279).

UN COEUR EN HIVER (12): Six games between two instrument makers and a violinist. Wonderfully observant drama from Claude Sautet. With Daniel Auteuil, Emmanuelle Béart. Barbican (071-638 8891).

CUP FINAL (15): Effective tale of Israeli and Palestinian soldiers with one love in common: soccer. Eran Riklis directs. MGM Swiss Centre (071-439 4470).

GROUNDHOG DAY (PG): Harold Ramis's marvellously fresh, wondrous comedy about a weatherman (Bill Murray) who always wakes up to the same day. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096).

INDEPENDENT PROPOSAL (15): Sex, greed and Robert Redford: a potent mixture, though Adrian Lyne's film gets silly. With Demi Moore, Woody Harrelson. Barbican (071-638 8891).

LEO (18): Jean-Claude Lauzon's exciting journey through a Montreal family's madness. Chelsea (071-351 3742/3743).

NOWHERE TO RUN (15): Shabby variation on *Shave*, with Jean-Claude Van Damme as the fugitive helping Rosanne Arquette. Director, Robert Harmon. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096).

THE STORY OF QIU JU (12): Zhang Yimou with a wonderful, simple film about a peasant (Gong Li) seeking justice. Curzon West End (071-439 4805) Gate (071-727 4043) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366).

WILD WEST (16): Buoyant comedy about an Asian Country and Western band, with Seth Green, Channing Tatum, David Alwood. MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Odeon: Haymarket (0426 915363) Kensington (0426 914866).



Fugitive: Jean-Claude Van Damme, *Nowhere To Run*

DANCE

NDT2: The second company of Nederlands Dans Theater, NDT2 is made up of young dancers who perform a repertoire that includes pieces by NDT's artistic director, Jiri Kylian, whose brilliant and beautiful work simply must be seen. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

DON QUIXOTE: The reason for mourning Cervantes' production of *Don Quixote* was to give the Royal Ballet's dancers plenty of opportunities for display dancing. This afternoon Tetsuya Kumakawa partners guest artist Miyako Yoshida from Birmingham. They have already shown how electric their partnership can be in the *Don Quixote* pas de deux, but this is the first chance to see them dance a full-length ballet together. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, WC2 (071-240 1068), today, 2.30pm, 7.30pm; Tues, 7.30pm. (S)

MUSIC

OPERA/CLASSICAL

BOC COVENT GARDEN FESTIVAL: The festival's second week gets off to an impressive start with *The Magic Flute* (Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, WC2, 5) tonight, Mon, Royal charity gala, 7pm; a performance of Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* from the Gabrieli Consort and Players under Paul McCreesh (Donmar Warehouse, 5) Earham St, tomorrow, 7.30; and this year's annual farewell recital by La Gran Scola Opera Company (Donmar Warehouse, 5) Thurs, Fri, next Sat, 8pm.

BRIGHTON FESTIVAL: The Moscow Chamber Opera makes its British debut with a short season. The week's programme includes *The Rostov Mysteries*, by Dmitry Rostovsky (St Martin's Church, Lewes Road, tonight, 7.30pm); two untitled pieces by Shostakovich — *Rayok* and the unfinished Gogol-based *The Gamblers* — performed together with Stravinsky's *Balalaika* (Rococo Theatre, tomorrow, Mon, 7.30pm); Shostakovich's *The Nose* (Theatre Royal, Wed and next Sat, 7.30); and a double bill of operas about opera, by Mozart and Salieri (Theatre Royal, Thurs, Fri, 7.30). All productions are by the company's 80-year-old founder Boris Pokrovsky. General Rozhdestvensky is the company's music director.

FESTIVAL INFORMATION CENTRE: 111 Church Street, Brighton (0273 678626); Box Office, The Dome, 29 New Road (0273 674357).



Elder statesman of British rock: Peter Dinklage returns to the live circuit (see Music)

ROCK
PETER DINKLAGE: The star offers gigs supported by artists from his record label. Real World, Sheffield, Arena (0742 565656), Mon, 8pm. Birmingham, NEC (021-780 4131), Tues, 8pm. Glasgow, SECC (031-557 6958), Wed, 8.30pm.

EXHIBITIONS

LONDON

WILLIAM SCOTT: A new edition to the Tate Gallery's range of long-term displays for 1993 is a group of works by a painter well represented in the gallery and here shown to advantage with a selection of his semi-abstract still-lives. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London, SW1 (071-821 1313), Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2-5.50pm.

TRADITION AND REVOLUTION IN FRENCH ART: This show representing the

collection of the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Lille includes some familiar works such as Delacroix's *Medea* but its strength is in fine works by academic painters little known in this country, such as the symbolist Jean-Charles Cazin. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-839 3321), Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm (Wed to 8pm), Sun, midday-6pm, until July 11. (S)

to transform interior spaces. Hayward Gallery, South Bank, SE1 (071-921 0873), Daily, 10am-6pm (Tues, Wed to 8pm), until June 27. (S)

NEW BEGINNINGS: Ken Powell has amassed an unrivalled collection of British art from the immediate post-war era. His particular favourite is Prunella Clough, but he also owns a splendid representation of St Ives free form abstractionists. Courtauld Institute Galleries (Nos 9 and 10), Somerset House, Strand, WC2 (071-873 2526), Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, until June 13. (S)

REGIONAL

RECENT BRITISH SCULPTURE: This South Bank touring show celebrates the achievements of the sculptors who came to prominence in the 1980s. Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Belford Road, Edinburgh (031-556 8921), Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, until June 13. (S)

DAVID HOCKNEY, GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES: This exhibition reveals Hockney's bizarre reflections on the Grimms' world. Gantry Arts Centre, Blechynedd Terrace, Southampton (0703 229319), Tues, Wed, 10am-4pm, Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat, midday-5pm, until June 5.

PETER HOWSON — PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS OF THE 1980s: A Mayfest edition of the artist's bold 1980s works. Howson is currently acting as official war artist in Bosnia, sponsored by *The Times*. William Hardie Gallery, 141 West Regent Street, Glasgow (041-221 6780), Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat, 10am-1pm, until June 15.

NEW VIDEOS

CHAPLIN (Gold, 15): A skilful impersonation by Robert Downey Jr in Richard Attenborough's edgy biographical epic. 1992

MEAN STREETS (Electra, 18): Scorsese's breakthrough film of 1973 still roars with life. With Harvey Keitel and Robert De Niro as hooda and vasalet.

SINGLE WHITE FEMALE (Columbia TriStar, 18): New Manhattan roommate proves a crackpot. Nicely atmospheric at first then the crowd-pleasing crudities mount. With Bridget Fonda and Jennifer Jason Leigh, director, Barbet Schroeder. 1992

BOOKINGS

KRONOS QUARTET: The internationally reputed new-music group take up a four-day residency at the Barbican in July. There will be performances of new works and special Baroque commissions as well as pieces by composers Gubaidulina, Pärt, Kancheli and Britch premieres of Louis Vierne's *Firestorm*, La Monte Young's *Chromatic Kriations* and Philip Glass's *Quartet No 5*. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891) July 21-24. (S)

Film: Geoff Brown, Theatre: Jeremy Kingdon, Classical Music and Opera: Owen Hughes, Rock and Jazz: Stephanie Osborne, Dance: Debra Crane. Exhibitions: John Russell Taylor, New Videos: Geoff Brown, Bookings: Kar Knight

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For the ninth consecutive summer, the Lufthansa Festival of Baroque Music brings together artists from many countries, from Old World and New, from East and West. The Festival is again under the musical direction of conductor Ivor Bolton. This year's cycle marks the 350th anniversary of Monteverdi's death with early 17th-century concert and a performance of his opera *L'Orfeo*. The 250th anniversary of the "Peace of Dettingen" is celebrated with a gala performance of Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum* and *Anthem*. We hope you take great pleasure in the timeless music which links people across all frontiers.

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Saturday 26 June
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Friday 2 July
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Lufthansa

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7.30 Wiz Bang (i) (2244897) **7.40 Charlie Chalk** (i) (2244033) **7.55 Playdays** (i) (2562255)
8.15 Breakfast with Frost, Sir David Frost interviews the employment secretary Gillian Shepherd (533491)
9.15 In Touch with Healing Mike Woodbridge learns about teletherapy (i) (2375620)
9.30 This Is the Day Goes Coast to Coast Judy Merry nears the end of her journey from St Bees Head to Robin Hood's Bay, stopping off at Whitby (i) (27685)
10.00 See Hear! Celine Mason presents the magazine for people with hearing difficulties (i) (26223)
10.30 Holiday Outings David Jessel takes a winter holiday in Marrakech (i) (2613855)
10.40 Cricket One-Day International: England v Australia. Live coverage of the third and final one-day international for the Texaco Trophy, from Lord's. Introduced by Tony Lewis (i) (2613855)
12.30 Country File John Craven and Dave Lee Travis present the results of the BBC's environmental survey (1560502). Wales: Down to Earth 12.55 Weather (1864395)
1.00 News (26878) followed by **Cartoon Classics** (75560410)
1.15 EastEnders (i) (CeeFax) (i) (90512)
2.15 Monaco Grand Prix Live coverage from Monte Carlo (1975072)
4.30 Babel Viewers air their concerns (CeeFax) (339164)
5.10 Droopy Triple Bill Cartoons (CeeFax) (8864014)
5.35 Masterchef Loyd Grossman is joined by the columnist Leslie Forbes and news presenter Maryn Lewis (CeeFax) (300149)
6.10 News with Maura Stuart (CeeFax) Weather (143830)
6.25 Phrases Bel in the last of the series, Thora Hild visits the World Valley Steam Railway at Howarth in Yorkshire, setting for the films *The Railway Children* and *Yanks* (CeeFax) (i) (650761)



Working mother: Diane Keaton (7.00pm)

- 7.00 Film: Baby Boom** (1987). One of a number of Hollywood baby pictures which came out around the same time, this sentimental comedy features Diane Keaton as a career woman who suddenly finds herself playing mother. Directed by Charles Shyer and co-starring Sam Shepard. (CeeFax) (i) (2248743)
8.45 News with Maryn Lewis (CeeFax) Weather (728410)
9.00 A Question of Guilt (CeeFax) (i) See Choice (2167728)
10.40 Everyman: Breach of Faith. A disturbing investigation of why it took the Roman Catholic Church authorities so long to recognise that Father Samuel Penny was a paedophile. (CeeFax) (374052). Northern Ireland: The Championship
11.20 Time of Her Life. The second of four programmes about health for women over 40. Tonight's programme deals with the menopause and the pros and cons of hormone replacement therapy. (CeeFax) (584830). Wales: Confrance Spectat; Northern Ireland: Everyman 12.10 Time of Her Life 12.40-1.40 Cricket
11.50 Cricket — **One-Day International**. Highlights of the third and final match in the series (i) (246965)
12.50am Weather (3360502). Ends at 12.55. Wales: Time of Her Life 1.20-1.25 News

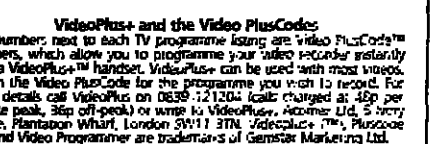
BBC2

- 6.15 Open University**. History of Mathematics — the Ancient Greeks (551858) 6.40 Maths: Shrivelling Polygons (54172) 7.05 *Dr Fustus* (i) (2510694) 7.55 *Manure's Dr Fustus* (part one) (2510694) 8.20 *Qualified to Work?* (1923678) 8.45 *The Origins of State Social Work* (5439304)
9.10 Thunderbolt (i) (7803948) **9.30 Jonny Briggs**. Episode eight (i) (7280120) **9.50 The Movie Game**. Film and video quiz (i) (CeeFax) (i) (7281236) **10.15 Rugsby**. Carlton (i) (5072217)
10.40 Grange Hill. Episode eight (i) (7793319) **11.00 Blue Peter Omnibus** (5332588) **11.45 The O-Zone**. Pop music magazine (4677014)
12.00 Regional Westminster Programmes (84520). Northern Ireland: Greenfingers. Wales: Week in Week Out
12.30pm Sunday Grandstand Introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration). 12.30 (523255). 1.35 (7541675) and 4.50 (1662795) Cricket: further two coverage from Lord's of the third one-day Texaco Trophy international between England and Australia. 1.05 and 4.30 Showjumping. From Hickstead, the Homepod Speed Grand Prix and the British Grand Prix. Plus Motor Racing, news of the Monaco Grand Prix which is being shown live on BBC1 at 2.15
7.30 The Money Programme **Two Wise Men**. Two of the "Seven Wise Men" who advise the Treasury. Patrick Minford of Liverpool University and Andrew Britton of NIESR, report from Liverpool and Leicester on the prospects for the recovery and their concern for the economy (72143)
8.05 Nightshift. The first of three evenings of live programmes about Britain's wildlife coming from three secret locations — a secluded farm, a wood and a city garden. With Jessica Holm, Nick Davies and Fergus Keeling (725385)
8.10 Who Killed Dixon? (CeeFax) (i) See Choice (531858)
9.00 Nightshift. Sunset, and the nocturnal creatures begin to emerge (499762)
9.10 Monaco Grand Prix Highlights (521236)
9.45 Nightshift. Pitch dark, and more nocturnal creatures are captured by the special cameras (545859)



Undercover: honest cop Al Pacino (10.15pm)

- 10.15 Film: Serpico** (1973) starring Al Pacino. A contribution to the *Crime and Punishment* series. Based on fact, the story of a New York policeman who refuses to be corrupted into the corruption that is his life in his department. His moral stand leads to his life being threatened from both inside and outside the force. Directed by Sidney Lumet. (CeeFax) (50527149)
12.25am Nightshift. An update on the nocturnal wildlife seen live tonight (5068435). Ends at 12.40



VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

CHOICE



Murder case: O'Connor and Lunghi (BBC1, 9.00pm)

A Question of Guilt
BBC1, 9.00pm
 After the artificial long-ago world of Inspector Allen we come bumping back into the gritty present with the first television adaptation of the highly-regarded crime novel of Frances Fyfield. It is a story, rather than a case, of a contract killing and the murky ramifications which flow from what seems to be a straightforward case. Somber, grainy photography sets the mood and the plotting has a relentless compulsion to unravel in the tangled web of lies and deceit. The other puzzle is that our hero, a divorcee with off-duty designs on the detective in the case (Derrick O'Connor), Gillian Barge shines as the twisted villainess. Do not expect a cosy ride.

Who Killed Dixon?
BBC2, 8.10pm
 George Dixon, as played by Jack Warner, was the original British boxer. According to his pungent documentary, Dixon is now virtually unrecognisable. The theme of the film is that despite a huge expenditure on manpower and technology during the Thatcher years, the police force has become steadily less effective. Crimes have soared and clear-up rates have gone down while insensitivity to behaviour and state of mind of victims have increased. The film is a support. Much of the blame is attributed to a police culture which has failed to adapt to a changing society. The film pulls few punches, though the criticism comes not, as might be expected, from left-wing politicians but police officers themselves.

The Long Summer: Gathering Speed
Channel 4, 8.00pm

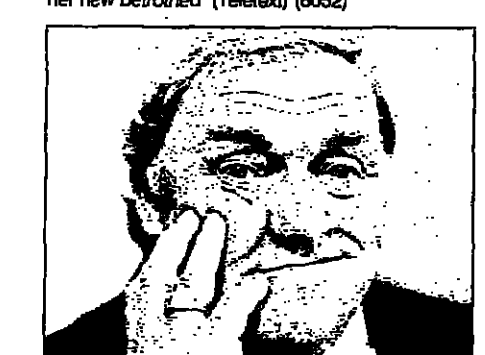
The series on social life in Britain between the wars continues with a look at the new technologies. For ordinary people the most important was probably the wireless, though the emphasis here is on the technical side rather than the impact of the programmes. Private car ownership was growing steadily but still confined to the better-off. The development of the aeroplane had more military than civilian importance. Nothing, curiously, is said about the cinema. Perhaps that is being reserved for a future edition. The other puzzle is that while last week's film was built around the comments of academics, tonight there is not an academic in sight.

Wild India
Channel 4, 7.00pm

The second film in the series on Indian wildlife explores the tensions between man's craving to hunt and his desire to conserve. The paradox is that the two impulses often went side by side. The Moghuls hunted lions and tigers but built gardens and were keen on the British were also hunters but as stocks diminished more emphasis was put on reserves where animals were protected. Indian princes massacred hundreds of birds in a single day's shoot but one Maharajah may have been responsible for the survival of the rare Asiatic lion. It was a hunter-conservationist, Robert Corbett, who established India's first national park. As before, the photography is excellent and the scope impressively wide. Peter Waymark.

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 GMTV** (i) (6794168)
9.25 The Big Fight Highlights of the WBA/IBF Heavyweight Championship bout in Washington between the holder, Riddick Bowe, and Jesse Ferguson, shown live earlier this morning (7345743)
10.15 Heidi. Adventures of a young Swiss girl (481217)
10.45 Link. The second part of a feature focusing on four people who have had AIDS since the early 1980s (Telexed) (5227359)
11.00 Morning Worship from the Roman Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire (15330)
12.00 This Sunday. Magazine series on a religious theme (55504)
12.30 CrossTalk. The latest news from Westminster, introduced by Peter Allen with MPs David Mellor and Tony Banks by regional weather (56168)
1.00 News and weather (75571526)
1.10 Sunday Supplement presented by Edwina Currie. The second edition of the current affairs show focuses on the Sunday Express and includes an interview with the editor, Eve Pollard. Garth Crooks reviews its sports pages (i) (5753034)
2.00 Mistrals Daughter. The second and final part of the drama serial based on the novel by Judith Kerr (i) (56277)
5.00 Stately Secrets. Glenda Hurnford and Alan Titchmarsh are the guides for a tour of the Duke of Devonshire's stately pile, Chatsworth, and its magnificent grounds and gardens in Derbyshire's Peak District. (Telexed) (7630)
6.00 News (Telexed) (985781)
6.20 News with Judith Kerr (Telexed) (761385)
6.30 Watching. A repeat of the romantic comedy series starring Emma Fry and Paul Bown (Telexed) (385)
7.00 Surprise, Surprise. Cilla Black helps the unexpected happen to ordinary members of the public. (Telexed) (i) (7168)
8.00 News (Telexed) (985781). Series about a London policeman who transfers to the Yorkshire Moors with his doctor wife. Starring Niamh Cusack and Nick Berry (Telexed) (i) (3588)
9.00 Jeeves and Wooster. Entertaining comedy series, based loosely upon the novels by P.G. Wodehouse, starring Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie. This week, Bertie, an enigmatic character in Manhattan, is thrown into a panic by the arrival of his former fiancée and her new betrothed. (Telexed) (6052)



Guest spot: comedian Les Dawson (10.00pm)

- 10.00 Aspel and Company**. Michael Aspel is joined by the veteran rock 'n' roller Jerry Lee Lewis and the mother-in-law's favourite, Les Dawson (114472)
10.45 Spitting Image. Satire from the latex look-alikes (i) (56565)
11.15 News with Julia Somerville. Weather (575694)
11.25 Deathwatch: Surviving Suicide. To mark Samaritan Week, an investigation into why so many people in Britain want to kill themselves (198762)
1.05am Cue the Music. The second part of a Glen Campbell concert (5419611)
2.05 TAT Chat and music show (5933340)
3.00 Coach. Comedy from the United States (48279)
3.30 European League Snooker. Alan McManus v John Parrott (74453)
5.30 ITV Morning News (11347). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Trans World Sport** (i) (5543188) **6.55 Spiff and Hercules**. Cat and dog cartoon (8064556) **7.10 The Wombles** (i) (1013052) **7.15 Bunch of Munsch**. Animation stories for pre-schoolers (5258033) **7.40 Sharky and George** (5377052) **8.05 Doug**. Animation (1606588) **8.35 The Adventures of Tintin**. Hergé's hero in another tale of derring-do (5435588)
9.00 California Dreams. The fifth of a 13-part teenage drama about a rock band with ambition (16052)
9.30 Dennis. Adventures of a mischievous young boy (i) (2335875) **9.45 Flipper**. The friendly dolphin comes to the rescue again (407878)
10.15 The Lone Ranger (b/w) Classic western adventures (49855)
10.45 Land of the Giants. Vintage science fiction series (i) (545236)
11.15 Little House on the Prairie. An extended episode of the series about a close-knit Kansas Plains family, starring Michael Landon (1707255)
1.10 Film: Pin Up Girl (1944) starring Betty Grable. Musical comedy about a secretary who, after gaslighting a war hero's secretary, is forced to lead a double life. Directed by Bruce Humberstone (7035217)
2.45 Football Italia. Live coverage of Juventus v Sampdoria (34725217)
5.00 Dare the Wildest River. A hair-raising canoe ride down the Grand Canyon (i) (8866472)
5.25 News and weather (8013120)
5.30 The Next Big Thing. The fifth of a 12-part series about a London band trying to break into the big time (i) (782)
6.00 MovieWatch. A review of films being shown at the Cannes Film Festival (i) (675)
6.30 The Wonder Years. American adolescent comedy series. (Telexed) (255)
7.00 Wild India (Telexed) (i) See Choice (5410)
8.00 The Long Summer. (Telexed) See Choice (2148)
8.30 StreetLegal. Callum Macrae investigates what legal redress there is against the police if they do not act on information they have received. Plus an appeal by Paul Foot for missing witnesses in the Carl Endgrew case and a profile of Peter Prankard, a prolific litigant who has been to court more than 100 times in ten years (1656)



Mafia murder rap: Don Ameche (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Film: Things Change** (1988) starring Don Ameche. Witty and delightful fantasy tale about an elderly Italian shoeshine man working in Chicago who agrees to confess to murder and go to prison in the place of a look-alike Mafia member. Beforehand, he is taken on a final fling with a young member of the Mafia family with unexpected consequences. Directed by David Mamet (5455935)
10.55 Red Empire. The sixth of a seven-part documentary series tracing the history of the Soviet Union. Presented by Di Robert Corbett (i) (592101)
12.00 Film: The Runner (1984). Amir Nader's semi-autobiographical story of a young Iranian boy who lives on a desert boat, making ends meet by collecting bottles and shining shoes. Starring Majid Mirzadani. In film with English subtitles (297366). Ends at 1.40am.

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
 As London except: 10.15-10.45 The Little Hobo (491217) 12.30-1.00 Garden's Day (1555120) 2.00 Film: Mischief (4743) 2.30 Film: Peter's Dragon (332830) 5.00-5.15 Living (5523) 5.30-5.45 News (5004) 6.00-6.30 News (5004) 6.30-6.45 News (5004) 6.45-7.00 News (5004) 7.00-7.15 News (5004) 7.15-7.30 News (5004) 7.30-7.45 News (5004) 7.45-8.00 News (5004) 8.00-8.15 News (5004) 8.15-8.30 News (5004) 8.30-8.45 News (5004) 8.45-9.00 News (5004) 9.00-9.15 News (5004) 9.15-9.30 News (5004) 9.30-9.45 News (5004) 9.45-10.00 News (5004) 10.00-10.15 News (5004) 10.15-10.30 News (5004) 10.30-10.45 News (5004) 10.45-11.00 News (5004) 11.00-11.15 News (5004) 11.15-11.30 News (5004) 11.30-11.45 News (5004) 11.45-12.00 News (5004) 12.00-12.15 News (5004) 12.15-12.30 News (5004) 12.30-12.45 News (5004) 12.45-1.00 News (5004) 1.00-1.15 News (5004) 1.15-1.30 News (5004) 1.30-1.45 News (5004) 1.45-2.00 News (5004) 2.00-2.15 News (5004) 2.15-2.30 News (5004) 2.30-2.45 News (5004) 2.45-3.00 News (5004) 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DAVID FLUSFEDER PREVIEW THE BEST OF NEXT WEEK'S TELEVISION

Dock Green to Toxteth

Who Killed Dixon?
Tomorrow, BBC2, 8.10pm

There is supposedly a secret police manual which recommends the tactic of "hanging out of the back of the Jeep making Zulu noises to frighten the public". After the Toxteth riots (provoked in part by police arresting a man for stealing his own bicycle), the Scarman report announced, unsurprisingly, that the police had lost touch with the community. But the type of policing Jack Warner represented so cosily is gone (it's doubtful whether it ever existed) — but this programme needs the myth of Dixon of Dock Green to make its vision of the present so shocking.

Instead there are the men whose human features are hidden inside riot gear, their gloved hands fiddling with canisters of CS gas and guns. These are Dixon's successors: their attitudes formed in the riots of 1981 and their strategies trained in the semi-military manoeuvres of the miners' strike in 1984-5 (which for some was a godsend; in the continual struggle for better pay, the strike provided "loads and loads of overtime").

This disturbing programme (adorned with the inevitable Philip Glass-style music) paints an ugly picture of the state of the police. It lists the dubious practices exposed over the past few years, and it



The BBC Crime and Punishment season dominates the week: from tomorrow's critical overview of the state of the police to Friday's play showing

Bernard Hill going potty in a sitting-room, with assorted criminals, psychopaths and criminologists along the way. The effect of it all is to make you grateful for the dizzy grandeur of the conquest of Everest (Thursday), and the camp humanism of *Star Trek* (see best sci-fi).

provides a careful analysis of how these practices have come about. But it also allows the police's embattled voice to be heard — splendid dissatisfactions with pay, conditions, and recent legislation (a criminal's charter).

Last year £6 billion was spent on the police. As the stern voiceover says: "If the police were a business, they would be bankrupt."

Home and Away, *Neighbours* potters happily on. Most of the original cast have been sent cruelly out to their death or exile, but the old stagers keep on going — although we've never been told how many dogs have played Bouncer so far — and the new families slip squabbly and messily into Erinsborough life.

Jim doesn't seem quite to have ever recovered from his magic mushroom experience out in the bush, as he does his weedy patriarchal best to stop Beth's marriage. And there is a fascinating hidden power struggle going over who should be the matriarchal heart of Ramsay Street. (Every soap opera needs to have its matriarchal heart.)

But the focus of the programme increasingly is Brad, the affable surfer. His stuttering romance with Lucy (who is extremely small but also extremely gifted at leaning against things and giggling — although she's punished for this eccentricity by being made to wear some really bizarre clothes) is now assuming epic proportions, soap-wise. They could become the Popeye and Olive Oyl of the Nineties.

Personally, I miss the twins; but where *Neighbours* really falls down is that it doesn't have a character to catch the teenybop hearts smitten by Blake and Sophie of *Home and Away*.

One of the joys of watching *Neighbours* (apart from, of course, the simple pleasure of watching a world where everything makes sense, corny sense) is to try to work out if each new actor is going to last. I have my doubts about Cameron and Marco; Lou, I think, is a stayer.

Testimonies

Tuesday, Channel 4, 9pm

A set of interviews with Israeli reserve and professional soldiers who have been policing the occupied territories in the face of the Palestinian intifada. It's an absolutely gripping, deeply sad study of the brutalisation of men in conditions of fear.

These are civil servants, graduate students, psychologists, PT instructors, ordered to act as armed policemen. When they apprehended stone-throwers they followed their slightly ambiguous instruction of "good manners", which told them to make sure the culprits didn't throw stones again. "The standard procedure was to break arms and legs."

Most of them can find justifications for this brutalising cruelty; one of those interviewed (who is made to watch his own relentless, casual, bone-breaking brutality) seems to have enjoyed it ("come on — you've got to give them a few, or they get smart with us"). And there is one, far too sensitive for his duties, a former professional army sergeant, whose eyes fill with tears when he is made to talk about the things he saw and did.

40 Minutes Prisoner

Tuesday, BBC2, 9.30pm

A fascinating study of one violent, articulate criminal's experience of the therapeutic prison Grendon Underwood. Alan is a convicted drug dealer and rapist, who himself was born as the result of a rape. He's stockily built, hair cut short on top and long at the back, and he wears sunglasses most of the time to cover up his gummy eye. He's cunning, clever, prone to anger, and has absolutely no empathy with anybody else.

The documentary conveys a good sense of therapeutic process, how it feels for both inmates and staff. It clearly works for some, but it requires absolute honesty and some capacity for sympathy from the prisoners. "I've been playing a game all my life," Alan says, and you get the sense that he's playing one now.

Under the Sun: Boys from Brazil

Thursday, BBC2, 9.30pm

A graphic story of the transvestite and transsexual prostitutes of Rio. Samira Del Fuego is a sluggish nightclub performer who used to be a boy pop star. Bobby Fontana, She's middle-aged now, with dyed blonde hair, a puffy face, and an

appointment with an Italian doctor for her final operation. Her protégée is Luciana. Samira took her in when Luciana was a nine-year-old boy in a skirt who had run away from home in the north. Samira initiated the girl-boy into the spirit cult of Pomba Gira (which is classic B-movie voodoo stuff — lots of cackling and dancing around with a snake) and also the mysteries of hormones.

Luciana has been taking hormones ever since, "and then came the silicone craze and I ruined my body"; the silicone has now shifted, causing severe infection to the hip. It's a sad, shocking tale, these people who remake their bodies and then sell them for small change, and at the same time cling on to hopes of stardom or riches to get them through the whole thing. Luciana wants above all to go to Rome ("I adore pretty things... it's more chic over there"), but she has two problems to deal with: first to escape from Samira, and then to get through Italian immigration with a passport that says "masculino".

True Stories: Return to Everest

Thursday, Channel 4, 9.35pm

"When great deeds are done... they appear the world over... as to what mankind is capable of doing," says Sir John Hunt. Forty years ago Hunt led the expedition that culminated in Hillary and Tenzing reaching the peak of Everest for the first time. To celebrate that anniversary the surviving six members of the team have returned to the mountain. (Hillary is there, Tenzing is dead.) This beautiful programme, which captures well the grandeur of the place, includes footage of the original expedition along with shots of the reunion stroll the veterans take across crevasses in the foothills of Everest. These grizzled, dignified old men in quilted jackets calmly discuss death ("danger is part of the sport, isn't it?"), show a lofty disdain for some of the gimmicky attempts that followed them ("It's become the greasy pole of Asia"), and, despite the piles of junk that have soiled the mountain and the whole Himalayan range, they still retain their original

awe for the place and for their own deeds — "to do the impossible... it was more than a mountain".

The Jazz Package

Thursday, Channel 4, 11.35pm

This is a wonderful, underwatched series. There are no voiceovers, no unnecessary links, and no cutting away from the music before the song is over. It's just the original black and white footage, mostly from the Forties, of some of the slickest jazz greats performing some of their greatest songs.

This week's highlights include Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Nat King Cole, and Bill "Bojangles" Robinson hot-footing it to "Let's Shuffle".

Have I Got News For You

Friday, Channel 4, 10pm

Even though it's labelled a "satire", this is a quiz show that actually manages to be consistently clever and funny. It does its topical humour business well, but its secret is that it never forgets that no matter how clever or sophisticated you are, there really is

nothing funnier than hearing someone shout out the word "bottom!". Paul Merton is a comic genius, well served by Ian Hislop and Angus Deayton. This week's guests are John Simpson and Tony Hawks.

Oilly's Prison

Friday, BBC2, 11.15pm

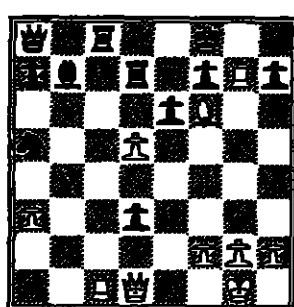
First part of a three-part Edward Bond play (the next two parts are on in the next two days). It's very old-fashioned in its camera work and length, which is not at all a bad thing, and it stars Bernard Hill doing his 'I'm Speaking Very Quietly And I'm About To Go Completely Insane' routine.

This first part takes the form of a monologue performed by Hill in a dingy sitting-room, as he tries to coax his silent, occasionally blinking daughter (Charlotte Coleman) to drink a cup of tea. There are some good lines — "If we can't respect each other, at least we can respect the furniture" — and Hill is always good value, but the claustrophobic effect of the play sometimes strays into the excruciating.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene,
Chess Correspondent

This position is taken from the game Karner — Madl, Szolnok 1987. White has broken down the barricades surrounding the black king and can now win with a neat combination. Can you see it? Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a British Chess Magazine book. The answer and the winners will be printed in *The Times* on the following



Saturday.
Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1 Rh7+. The winners are: H.B. Sanders, Ulverston; C.R. Pearce, Alpheton; C. Kennedy, Canterbury.

WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

EPIPHYTE

- a. A bishop's assistant
- b. Appearing from nowhere
- c. A dependent plant

SAXIFICOUS

- a. Pertaining to rock gardens
- b. Turning to stone
- c. The family of saxifrage

DISPLAT

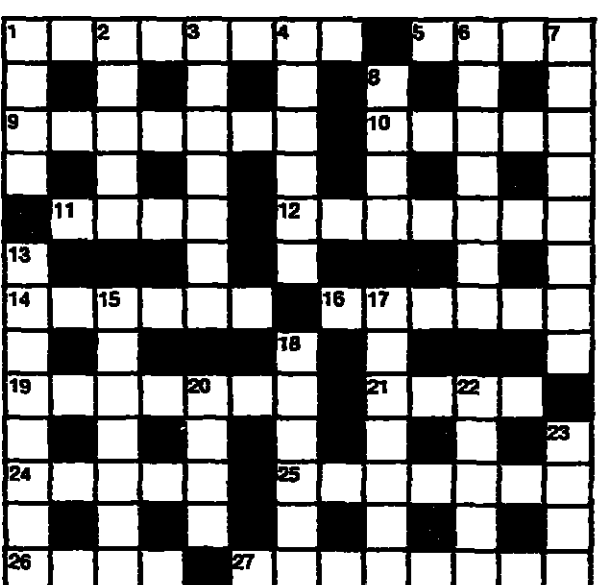
- a. To unplant
- b. A satellite dish
- c. Displeased

ABRIN

- a. A powerful poison
- b. Sea water without salt
- c. A Nigerian hut

Answers on page 13

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3103



- ACROSS
- 1 Match end (4,4)
 - 5 Head growth (4)
 - 9 Disappointment (3,4)
 - 10 Baron Verulam (5)
 - 11 Aromatic plant (4)
 - 12 Twilight (7)
 - 14 Bizet Seville opera (6)
 - 16 Go up (6)
 - 19 Current measurer (7)
 - 21 Church domed recess (4)
 - 24 Boastful deception (5)
 - 25 Greek (7)
 - 26 Simple (4)
 - 27 Increase rapidly (8)
- DOWN
- 1 Complete (4)
 - 2 Supple (5)
 - 3 Difficulty (7)
 - 4 Bodyguard (6)
 - 6 Records store (7)
 - 7 Apostate (8)
 - 8 Capable (4)
 - 13 Board letters game (3)
 - 15 Whispers (7)
 - 17 First summer bird (7)
 - 18 Parentless child (6)
 - 20 Grass bunch (4)
 - 22 Tuscan horse race city (5)
 - 23 Personal device (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3102
ACROSS: 1 Ambition 7 Ether 8 Antipodes 9 Dip
10 Lugs 11 Mirage 13 Kidney 14 Beacon 19 Shiner
20 Bang 21 Cow 23 Versatile 24 Apple 25 Transmire
DOWN: 1 Alarum 2 Botted 3 Type 4 Outlain 5 Child
6 Cope 7 Escaper 12 Believe 15 Cranium 16 Neglect
17 Bear 18 Scrap 19 Swipe

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Up the chattering classes

Whatever happened to television chat shows?



TALK is cheap, but chat has become almost worthless. Television chat shows are going out of business like

fancy restaurants in a recession, unable to make ends meet. You always assume that chat shows are all over the television schedules like a rash. Once they were. But just look at them now.

There is Michael Aspel, Clive Anderson and, well, if you really push it, Bruce Forsyth's *Guest Night*. And this is in an age when families are so un-nuclear they not only don't eat together, fathers barely recognise their own children. With so little in-house talking going on, you would have thought people would be grateful for chat shows. When you're caught short at home, with nothing snappy to say yourself, chat shows could serve as a handy stand-in, a sort of conversational pizza-delivery service. Hungry for gossip, maybe a few celebrity anecdotes, without all the bother of having people over to dinner, or of hanging around sage doors? Why not switch on the telly and let Wogan and Aspel do your talking for you?

So who killed the chat shows? And they were so young, too! People in Britain only began watching them on October 4, 1964, when Eamonn Andrews first shot the breeze with Willie



Gone for now but not forgotten: host Jonathan Ross

Rushion. And while nobody except a blockhead ever wrote except for money, or appeared on a chat show except to plug something, being a chat-show guest then was not always quite so commercially cynical. Recalling those early days, Willie Rushion said recently: "For the *Eamonn Andrews Show*, they used to get you there by about 5.30pm and the show went out at about 10.30pm, by which time everyone was completely pissed. Through the whisky fumes, some extraordinary things did happen. I think they were funnier shows because everyone was slightly out of it, probably revealed more, so they were more dangerous."

Contrast this with last Sunday's Faustian feast on *Aspel*. In return for getting Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone and Bruce Willis on the programme, Aspel turned the show into a yawning advertisement for Planet Hollywood, a restaurant that Arnie, Sly and Bruce were about to open in London.

If this is a step away from Clive Anderson's approach of using guests like source material for gags, it is several miles from the Parkinson style of the 1970s, when guests were slowly baked rather than quickly grilled, and a star's career was trawled for insights rather than soundbites.

rogation style popularised by Jeremy Paxman (Guest: "Well, Jeremy, I've been working on a film that will be out in the autumn." Paxman: "Oh, come off it! Do you think I was born yesterday?").

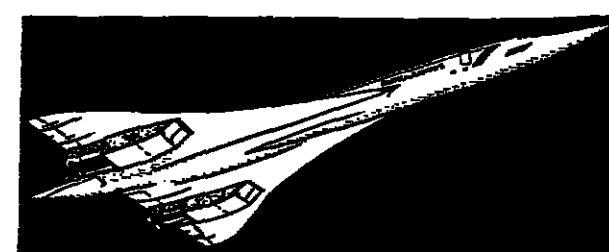
Nobody seems to know how to revive the chat show. Viewers are bored watching celebrities shamelessly plugging films and books. And celebrities interviewing other celebrities can develop into a luvvie-in. The unexplored option is a programme in which chat-show hosts interview other chat-show hosts, who have nothing to plug except their own shows. This should provide a pleasing symmetry, much like Lewis Carroll's mythical island where everyone earned a precarious living taking in each other's washing. The BBC has already made a pilot. Here's the snippet: Wogan: If it's chat 'n' blarney you're wanting, we have enough to spare. Given our guests, there may well be more questions than answers [looks impatiently sideways at camera twice], but it'll be none the worse for that. Ah, would this be a guest now, would it?

Forsyth: Hello Terry, nice to see ya, to see ya... Anderson: Er, to see you, umm, not horrid, no, of course not... to see you... umm... is to love you? Humphries: Of course it is, darling. Everybody loves me. Paxman: Oh, come off it! Winfrey: Tell me, Jeremy, did you ever fancy your best friend's mother when you were a teenager?

O'Connor: Shall I sing? Ross: Er, no Des. The children are still awake. Wogan: Didn't little Tel wachaface there would be chat and blarney aplenty?

JOE JOSEPH

Colin Moran is on holiday.



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